

No Amnesty For Illegal Immigrants

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Body

E. Patrick McGuire, in criticizing President Bush's amnesty proposal for illegal immigrants from Mexico [letters, July 21], might have also mentioned the work of hundreds of dedicated American Foreign Service professionals. These workers are assigned to consular sections at posts across the globe and they work hard to uphold U.S. immigration laws.

They screen hordes of applicants for nonimmigrant visas. Under U.S. law, these people must prove that they are not intending immigrants, otherwise they would be ineligible for nonimmigrant status.

This process can be stressful, tiresome, even morale-deadening -- but it gets done thoroughly and in full compliance with U.S. law. Consequently, refusal rates for nonimmigrant visas at many posts run high.

Seen in this light, the granting of amnesty to several million illegal immigrants could constitute a grievous slap in the face for Foreign Service personnel.

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Silver Spring

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