

Arizona immigration law steps in right direction

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Body

With illegal immigrants coming to the U.S. from all directions, it's heartening to see someone, somewhere is fed up and finally going to do something about it ("We're protecting our citizens," Opposing view, Border control debate, Wednesday).

Sure, special interest groups, friends and relatives of illegal immigrants and those who support them in any way, such as employers, will strenuously object. They will demonstrate amid cries of discrimination and racial profiling. But the fact remains that something needs to be done. When Washington continues to demonstrate an inability to deal with the crisis, isn't it a state's right and duty to protect its citizens? If the federal government fails to recognize the scope of the problem, then states must take the initiative.

So congratulations to Arizonans. You have a governor and Legislature with your best interests at heart.

Jack McDonald

Salt Lake City

Measure is a disgrace

It shames me, a resident of Arizona for 21 years, to think of the new immigration law going into effect. It is deplorable that our elected officials have put this state in a bad light ("Arizona's ugly immigration law reflects price of inaction," Our view).

Why would people of a different color or who speak another language want to come here? The harassment and profiling that are bound to take place will rot Arizona into a wild state of disgrace and confusion. It will lose millions of dollars from tourism, sporting events and entertainment.

The lawmakers who voted for this bill should be removed from office in our coming elections. We can restore our pride on Election Day. Until that happens, I will do my part to make sure our people are educated on all the ballot issues.

John Chiazza

Gilbert, Ariz.

Fix immigration system

The immigration debate has once again raised its angry head. The argument is that immigration laws are broken and need to be fixed. What is broken: the enforcement of existing laws, controls on the border, immigration courts, worksite verifications, enforcement and fines, verifiable identification and work permits, the length and cost of legal immigration, and the number of visas issued.

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We have had seven amnesties, and problems continue.

I work with many immigrants who legally immigrated and sponsored their families. My college roommate, a U.S. citizen, can't sponsor her husband of 35 years, an engineer, because in the terrible Michigan economy, she can't prove financial support, and he can't find employment. But she doesn't cheat and bring him here illegally. We need to respect those who have followed our immigration laws while also recognizing the problems that exist in the process.

First, we must fix the problems with our immigration system and enforcement. Then, we should offer a one-time chance at legal immigration through the existing legal pathways of family or employer sponsorship. Employers say the immigrants do the jobs Americans won't, and families say illegal immigrants have a right to stay. It is time to accept responsibility for those beliefs.

Doreen Suran

Bellevue, Wash.

Graphic

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