

## Some key issues

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### Exploitation and victimization

Maria cannot lose her job. She was hired before E-Verify, but she knows if she were looking for work now, her Social Security number would come back as fraudulent. She is a model employee and is willing to work for less.

“It’s what a lot of illegals are doing,” she said.

Carolina Núñez, a BYU law professor who specializes in issues related to undocumented immigrants, said industries that are saturated with undocumented workers tend to have the highest violations of labor and employment-related laws. There also is anecdotal evidence that these workers are more likely to be exploited in the workplace, including lower pay, not getting paid overtime, enduring a hostile work environment and more. This hurts all of the workers in these industries, she said.

Illegal immigrants are less likely to call for emergency services if they’ve been the victim of a crime or if they need medical help, Núñez said. Emergency responders don’t ask for immigration status, but that population shies away from interactions with government officials at all levels, regardless of the situation, because they’re afraid of being deported.

“They think about legal issues all the time,” Nunez said.

Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank has come out in opposition to Orem Rep. Stephen Sandstrom’s bill, which is similar to the bill Arizona passed last year. Burbank said in a news conference in May that alienating the migrant community will make them more likely to be victims and will hurt the police’s ability get information from them, since they’ll be afraid to come forward.

### Lawlessness at the border and close to home

Increasing tension along the border has resulted in more expensive, more dangerous and less effective enforcement. According to the conservative Cato Institute, the cost of arresting one illegal immigrant rose from \$300 in 1992 to \$1,700 in 2002, largely because the easy ways to get across the border were blocked, so border jumpers ended up in uninhabited deserts and other out-of-the-way places. The death rate for illegal immigrants tripled in that time period. Apprehension rates decreased.

The reactions among both immigrants and citizens have been more militant than in the past, said Arturo Morales, who is a naturalized citizen from Mexico. He has felt threatened and lost business in real estate and marketing after speaking out against opening the borders more.

“It is sad when I have to worry whether I should speak openly about enforcing the laws of my country for



fear of people threatening me with violence or facing consequences — things like that,” he said. “It is almost what you see on the other side of the border, in Mexico, without the physical acts of violence.”

### **Fairness and a chance at the American dream**

Maria Espinoza didn't choose to be born in a corrupt, poverty-stricken country. She pulled her family up the only way she knew and came to the United States to work hard.

Rep. John Dougall, R-Highland, said an ideal solution to the immigration problems would be to allow people like Espinoza and her family to come without all the hoopla and waiting.

“Anyone that wants to come and live and work and provide for themselves, who doesn't pose a public threat to anybody else, who doesn't pose a national security threat, we should welcome them,” he said. “We should embrace them.”

What's fair, however, changes depending on whom you ask. Rep. Chris Herrod, R-Provo, pointed out the status quo is unfair for the poor people in Asian and African countries who don't have a border to cross. They struggle just as much, he said, but have less access to immigration because of the large number of illegals in the country.

“Whenever we talk about compassion, we never talk about those that are trying to come here legally — those that are waiting, those that don't have the opportunity to sneak across the border,” Herrod said.