

Don't buy immigration fearmongering

Feb. 13, 2019

Lucy Comstock-Gay

Thank you to Senators Coons and Carper and Representative Blunt Rochester for their leadership and compassion as President Trump has negligently interrupted government services — and distracted us from very real national problems — over a misguided, unneeded border wall.

Our country's borders do need to be managed appropriately, but the President uses fearmongering and outright lies about immigrants to justify his archaic wall. Facts tell a different story.

The Cato Institute reported in 2015 that “there were 56 percent fewer criminal convictions of illegal immigrants than of native-born Americans in Texas in 2015. The criminal conviction rate for legal immigrants was about 85 percent below the native-born rate.”

According to a March 2018 study published in the journal *Criminology*, “not only does illegal immigration not increase crime, it may actually contribute to a drop in the overall crime rates.”

Despite Trump's repeated claims that authorities “had arrested 17,000 criminals at the southern border in 2018,” U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reported that U.S. Border Patrol encountered 6,259 immigrants with criminal convictions, many of them (46.5 percent) for illegal entry charges.

Again, I thank Delaware's members of Congress for standing firm against new wall funding—and for rejecting the ignorance and racism at the root of Trump's baseless border crisis claims.

—Lucy Comstock-Gay, Wilmington