

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Feb. 19, 2019

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EDITOR: Trump's obsession with building a wall on the southern border is typical of this administration's policies — based on false assumptions. A wall is neither necessary nor sufficient to achieve the goals Trump is citing to justify it.

Stop drug traffic? Most of the illegal drugs entering the country are coming through ports of entry, not over unwalled portions of the border. Besides, as long as there is high demand for drugs in the U.S., traffickers will find a way to meet it.

A more efficient way to curtail the influx of drugs is to attack the demand side of the market rather than the supply side — spend money on drug rehabilitation.

Undocumented immigrants are responsible for a crime wave? Not according to the Cato Institute (a Libertarian, but hardly a liberal organization). The crime rate is noticeably higher among native born citizens than among immigrants.

Immigrants take jobs away from Americans and depress wages? Again, citing Cato, wrong. Immigrants tend to take jobs natives don't want, and have a negligible effect on wages.

What about terrorists sneaking in among asylum seekers? As with drug traffickers, no physical barrier is going to deter a determined terrorist. Shoring up other border protection/detection methods makes much more sense.

What about those "hordes" of undocumented aliens in the country? Most of them overstayed their visas; they did not enter the country through the southern border.