



Letter: Exclusionary policies will hurt American workers

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Many working-class Americans have felt abandoned by a government more focused on identity politics than the fact that their real wages have been stagnant for decades. Thirty-four percent of adults have no savings. Unfortunately, new trade and economic policies of exclusion will not help.

Five million American jobs depend on trade with Mexico. Largely as a result of Donald Trump's candidacy and election, the peso has been devaluated five times since 2016.

The loss of manufacturing jobs is more a product of automation than trade policy. Since the 2009 economic recovery, 88 percent of these jobs require more than a high school education.

Post-industrial decline is seen in developed nations as birth rates fall and automation leaves fewer workers to support the elderly. The U.S. has a unique opportunity to embrace young immigrants, many from cultures that value larger families.

A report by the Partnership for a New American Economy says immigrant business owners contribute more than \$775 billion to our annual gross domestic product and employ one out of every 10 American workers at privately owned companies. Immigrants start 28 percent of new businesses.

Illegal immigrants are paying sales taxes and many are paying payroll taxes to subsidize Americans' Social Security and Medicare as benefits they will never claim.

According to the Cato Institute, no person accepted to the U.S. as a refugee, Syrian or otherwise, has been implicated in a major fatal terrorist attack since the Refugee Act of 1980.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the mean family premium for employer-based health insurance coverage would have been almost \$2,600 higher in 2015 without Obamacare. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows private sector employment has increased every month

since the Affordable Care Act became law, and rigorous comparisons of Medicaid expansion and non-expansion states show no negative effects on employment in expansion states.