

# News Tribune

## Your Opinion: 'Fear' of immigrants unfounded

Bill Gerling

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Trump alleges we have to fear foreigners bringing in drugs, terror and their religious ideas. He has manufactured a crisis on our border in an attempt to coerce Congress to pass an appropriation for his wall. Sen. McConnell refused to have the Senate vote because Trump did not offer new proposals. Trump said he would take the blame for the shutdown and then changed his mind and blamed the Democrats. He would not offer the DACA dreamers any hope of citizenship.

The Yale study put the estimate of illegals between 16 and 29.6 million. It was a mathematical model, not a count or survey. In fact, this study even states that because of percentages used that crime rates among illegals are probably even lower than originally projected. The claim that thousands of Americans are being killed by illegals is unproven. In a study by the libertarian Cato Institute, homicide conviction rates for legal and illegal immigrants were 25 percent and 87 percent of those of natives. Unauthorized immigrants were also 11.5 percent less likely than native-born Americans to be convicted of sexual assault and 79 percent less likely to be convicted of larceny. Much of the illegal drugs are brought through legal ports of entry and by sea.

Combining deaths from murder and drug overdoses together and blaming them on illegal immigrants is not logical and has no basis. John Kelly, Trump's former chief of staff, stated illegal immigrants pose no security threat.

Are immigrants draining tax resources? According to another Yale study, first-generation immigrants are more costly to governments than are the native-born, but the second generation are among the strongest fiscal and economic contributors in the U.S. This report concludes immigration has an overall positive impact on the long-term economic growth in the U.S.

The CDC has found the United States is 16 percent below what is considered the level for a population to replace itself. If a country needs 2,100 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age over their lifetime, America was hitting at just 1,765. The only other path for the net population growth is through immigration.

Democrats are not opposed to spending money on border security such as more ICE agents, technology and more immigration judges. They have promised to vote for more technology and personnel to protect the border.