

Liberals flip-flopping on sanctuary cities

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As most people can remember from recent news cycles, liberal politicians are fond of informing Americans we are a nation of immigrants. They have even gone so far as to say immigrants commit fewer crimes than natural-born U.S. citizens.

While this statement may be statistically accurate, the context is very misleading. Illegal immigrants, by definition, are people who have broken our laws by entering the country illegally. The term "immigrant," as used by many political talking heads, includes legal immigrants who are among the group least likely to be convicted of a crime, according to a 2015 study by the Cato Institute.

Last week, President Trump announced his plan to transfer illegal immigrant detainees to sanctuary cities around the country. This plan has drawn sharp criticism from many leaders on the left. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi recently accused the president of "cynicism and cruelty" for planning to allow detainees to seek sanctuary in these Democrat-controlled cities.

Her hateful accusations seem to fly in the face of earlier remarks the speaker - along with her colleagues in San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, Oakland and elsewhere - have made in favor of allowing illegal immigrants to freely remain in their districts. These mayors and legislators have used language that shows they are actually unwilling to admit they are not as friendly to illegal immigration as they would like to appear.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has called the president's plan "a sideshow" and "demoralizing." This seems to be a strange way to refer to a plan that should allow his state to follow through on showing how great they think it is to have sanctuary cities. Newsom had previously said, on HBO, that sanctuary cities "keep people safer, keep people healthier, and keep people educated." His newfound opposition to illegal immigrants seems to contradict his earlier virtue signaling that so impassions his liberal base.

To be honest, I don't completely agree with the president on this plan, either. However, I would like to see the immigration crisis at the border addressed objectively instead of just allowing hundreds of thousands of unvetted persons to enter our country illegally because politicians refuse to agree on what constitutes solid policy.

Unlike the hypocrites from liberal lala-land, I would like to see an overhaul of our system that would include a requirement for asylum seekers to apply for protection at an embassy in their

home countries, rather than rushing the border to overwhelm our hard-working border patrol agents. I also believe legal immigration should be safe, reasonably quick, and free only for those who actually need sociopolitical asylum from tyrannical government.

No doubt immigration will be one of the heavily politicized topics for 2020. However, it doesn't have to be so divisive. Republicans have a great opportunity to put forward bills that will rework the failing system. Work will not be easy or quick in this contentious political atmosphere; most things that are worth doing aren't either of those things. While we are making America great, we should also try to include making her immigration system great as well.