



Letter to the editor: Letter writer's facts are dubious at best

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To the editor:

Michael McKenney's letter ("Dems pander to illegal immigrants to solidify power," Opinion, Dec. 29) referring to a previous letter regarding dangers of immigration as being "devoid of facts" is dubious at best.

He states (with no source quoted) that "upon entry to U.S. over 65 percent of illegals apply for and receive welfare benefits." According to Cato Institute a think tank dedicated to "limited government and individual liberty" -- not the New York Times -- "immigrants use fewer welfare ... benefits than native born."

Also "legal immigrants CANNOT get welfare for five years and therefore illegals, outside of emergency medical care" are not eligible at all.

In the final summary line "even without a higher wall around welfare state, immigrants are a welfare bargain compared with native born Americans."

Regarding his other "fact" ... "even the most left-leaning sources admit illegal immigrants cost the American taxpayer over \$100 billion annually in identity theft, municipal services, healthcare and jobs lost ..."

This appears to be another fabrication. The only place that anything close to this number comes up is on a FAIR -- an organization labelled as a hate group with ties to white supremacists by Southern Poverty Law center -- website. The entire piece is their estimation of numbers of illegals present and extrapolated costs, not one source documented.

A majority of Americans of both parties would like the DACA issue fixed with some pathway to citizenship. Most Americans are not in favor of prison camps for children of asylum seekers as a deterrent to immigration. In fact according to several surveys most Americans would like an orderly immigration system with pathway to citizenship for people who work and want to be U.S. citizens. Trump has turned this into a political issue, scapegoating is a very old political tactic, as is calling people "socialists."

Most Americans would, however, rebel if Social Security, and Medicare -- two "socialistic" programs -- were taken away from our elderly.

It is time for Americans to work together to find some common ground to create some good legislation that will benefit us all rather than sling unsubstantiated mud.

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