

NEWS & RECORD

Immigration reform will help the economy

By: Meg Eggleston – May 28, 2013

I am a strong proponent of the immigration reform bill and am writing to offer statistics that refute a study recently released by the Heritage Foundation. Economically, that study has been called biased research since it speaks only to potential costs and not to benefits. The AP reports that Stephen Gross, chief actuary for the Social Security Administration, says the bill would boost Social Security by more than \$240 billion over the next decade, would add \$64 billion in new tax revenues for Medicare. It would increase the size of the economy a full percentage point by 2017.

Formerly undocumented workers who earn the rights of legal workers will make more money, start their own businesses, and boost the economy's productivity.

A conservative think tank, the Cato Institute, reports immigration reform would yield \$1.5 trillion in GDP gain over 10 years. The American Action Forum last month found that immigration reform would close the nation's budget gap by as much as \$2.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Compare that to President Obama's budget proposal, which trims \$1.8 trillion over the next decade.

To deny immigration reform denies the American dream for undocumented residents as well as for us who appreciate all they have to offer, both now and as potential citizens.

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