

## Letters: Legislature wise to reject E-Verify for better plan

By **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FOR SATURDAY, JULY 30**

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In his commentary "Legislature inexplicably bows to business, rejects E-Verify," Palm Beach County Republican Chairman Sid Dinerstein asked "Is Florida now a sanctuary for illegal aliens?" The answer is no.

By refusing to pass the E-Verify bill, the Florida Legislature, unlike those in Arizona and Georgia and more like Utah's, said our immigration system must be revamped to serve our nation's labor needs and foster legal migration. The H-2A program Mr. Dinerstein mentioned is outdated and allows for a very small number of needed, unskilled workers. According to the Cato Institute, "The pool of native-born Americans who have traditionally filled those jobs continues to shrink." His article rests on the fallacy that an "enforcement-only approach" is the answer.

Florida's failure to pass the E-Verify bill saved Floridians legal fees defending a bill that was in part unconstitutional. More important, the failure to pass this state bill encourages Congress to act in a bipartisan fashion to give our nation sensible immigration reform that will protect our borders, create a federally mandated employment verification system, create an efficient temporary worker program and bring 11 million people out of the shadows into a path of legal status where they pay back taxes and learn English. It is not amnesty but accountability.

Many Republican and conservative groups and individuals have voiced the need to fix our immigration system. We should be proud that Florida did not follow Arizona, Alabama or Georgia, and that Florida is a trailblazer to encourage constructive immigration policies that steer the debate away from politics and polls and toward economic growth and humane values.

GARY WALK

PASTOR MONICA DELGADO

AILEEN JOSEPHS

West Palm Beach

Editor's note: Gary Walk, Monica Delgado and Aileen Josephs are co-chairs of Florida Voices for Immigration Reform.

Obama's spendthrift ways are what make him look bad

Editorial cartoonist Mike Judge, who obviously supports raising the debt limit, seemed to put all the blame on the Republicans and didn't see where President Obama is equally at fault for being just as obstinate. If anyone is making President Obama "look bad" it's Mr. Obama himself (cartoon, July 19).

This spend-crazy president, who started his spending spree with his ridiculous "stimulus package" and continues to dig us deeper and deeper into debt, can't seem to realize that we can't spend money we don't have. It's bad enough that both China and Japan already own a piece of us, but our esteemed president wants to sell us down the river to the point we become known as the United States of the Orient.

The public has been wisely urged to pay off credit-card debt, yet President Obama can't seem to take a dose of his own medicine. He seems to act like a kid who was given the power to chew up every bit of enticement, regardless of the stomachache he should have known would follow. This is the problem with youth; they can't seem to see the big picture.

The public has had to cut back on its spending because it just doesn't have the money. But our president wants to do just the opposite. Is this true leadership? Or does it just fall under the old adage, "Do as I say, not as I do?"

ANGELA OUELLETTE

Delray Beach

Family in debt would look for extra income on top of cuts

Republicans argue daily that we must act like a typical American family and reduce expenses to solve this terrible debt problem, as any family in debt would do ("Debbie and Frank Peterson's debt ceiling.") I am the head of a typical American family, and if in debt I would never follow that advice.

Sure, I would reduce unnecessary expenses, i.e., put off buying a new car and putting the kids in public rather than a private school. However, I would work equally hard at increasing income. Any typical head of a family in trouble would work overtime or get a second job, because it only makes sense that increasing money coming in is essential to solving any debt problem. That, unfortunately, is not the Republican idea of reality.

Why is bringing in additional income to satisfy this debt crisis a sin when it should be a priority equal to cutting expenses? I guess the debt isn't really such a "crisis" after all; it's just pandering as usual. This is just another attempt by the Republicans' rich supporters to pay less in taxes than ever in recent history, and make it up by milking those in need. This is not just crazy; it's crooked.

JAMES L. EISENBERG

West Palm Beach

Rooney wrong to pin hopes on balanced budget amendment

Rep. Tom Rooney's proposal ("Solution to our deficit problem: Balanced budget amendment") might actually destabilize the economy. When the economy weakens, tax receipts decline and unemployment benefits automatically rise, cushioning the decline in the economy. Yes, the deficit will increase, but if the government responds to the decline in tax receipts by raising taxes and/or cutting spending while the economy sags, the economy could easily worsen. This is the wrong fiscal policy.

Looking to the future: What if economic theories change? Will we amend the Constitution again as these theories change? And who will enforce the amendment if the president and Congress fail to balance the budget? Judges?

ROBERT J. PARISH

Jupiter

Don't blame Democrats; it's Republicans who won't budge

I'm tired of people blaming both parties for the debt-ceiling crisis ("Debt impasse creates a credibility crisis.") Republicans used the debt ceiling as leverage to get budget cuts they could never get as a minority. When the president compromised and agreed to requested cuts and more, the Republicans said no, if the plan included tax increases on the wealthy.

Now that Democrats are offering yet another compromise of larger budget cuts with no tax increases, Republicans are saying no because they want smaller cuts that will run out in six months and cause another debt-ceiling crisis during election-year politics. The president and Democrats have consistently compromised; Republicans have not. And the sticking point is taxes.

The Bush tax cuts were supposed to expire. They coincided with a sharp rise in the deficit and a loss of jobs to offshoring. We can't balance the budget by cutting spending to 1951 levels; there must be a compromise on taxes. When people blame both parties, they encourage Republicans' resistance to compromise.

RANDY JOHNSON

Boynton Beach

Country must trump party

I am 88, and always been extremely proud of my country. I have voted in every federal election since 1944. Today, I am ashamed of the politicians who owe their allegiance not to our country but to their political party. This childish maneuvering about the debt limit for our country is embarrassing to all of our citizens and to the world at large. After being elected, our representatives should owe their allegiance to our country and not primarily to their party or to those who provide their financial backing.

WILLIAM S. RACHLES

Delray Beach

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