



Back comprehensive immigration law

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In the United States, almost all of us are immigrants. Our own families came from Germany, Lithuania, Italy, England and Sweden, many with little more than the willingness to work and a strong desire to provide for their families.

Likewise today people from Central America are coming to this country. There are moral and ethical reasons to accept them (preserving families and honoring the sanctity of life) and religious teachings (the Golden Rule and Christ's counsel "whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me." Matthew 25:40 to guide us.

If you don't accept these arguments, consider the economic reasons to welcome hard working, family centered people. As of 2010, undocumented workers contributed \$13 billion to Social Security payroll taxes even though they are not eligible for the benefits (the [balance.com](#) "How Immigrations Affects the Economy and You" May 16, 2018).

The government projects that the "economy will add 9.8 million jobs between 2014-2024, but the labor force will grow by 7.9 million workers ... restricting immigration to the U.S. will act as a brake on the economy" (National Immigration Forum, "Immigrants as Economic Contributors" June 5, 2018).

The Cato Institute reported "Deporting DACA recipients will cost the federal government \$60 billion, along with a loss of \$280 billion in economic growth over the next 10 years" (*Arizona Daily Star*, May 13, 2018).

President Ronald Reagan rightly rejected the term "illegal aliens" and instead called them "willing workers." We need the DACA recipients (law abiding, in school or graduated from school or in the military), and the Dreamers as well as those crossing our southern border who are willing to work hard to provide a better life for their families and help our country prosper.

We urge Congressman Andy Harris, whose parents emigrated from Hungary and Poland, to work with members from both parties in Congress to pass comprehensive, humane immigration legislation now.