

Topic: Undocumented Immigrants

Issue: What policies should the U.S. government enact to address the treatment and placement of undocumented immigrants?

Our Position: We should support the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program and the Bridge Act and assist these immigrants on the path to full citizenship. We should support a path to lawful status for many of the remaining undocumented immigrants. We should also support legislation that provides a program for seasonal workers.

Why do we have this position?

DACA immigrants were brought to the U.S. as children and have been fully integrated into American society. An estimated 4,000 Pima County residents ~~crossed~~ were brought across the border illegally before they were 16. Their futures would be in jeopardy.

"What can Trump do? Sorting out his immigration plans," by Curt Prendergast. **AZ Daily Star**, 11/13/16

If Trump revokes DACA, the roughly 27,000 Arizona residents who have DACA deferrals and another 19,000 whose deferrals were renewed as of March, would lose their driver's licenses and their ability to work legally in America.

"What can Trump do? Sorting out his immigration plans," by Curt Prendergast. **AZ Daily Star**, 11/13/16

Undocumented immigrants are in the U.S to work and support themselves and their families. Rounding up and deporting immigrants, the large majority of whom have been productive members of the community, would be costly, disruptive to our communities, and terrifying to our neighbors.

"Ending Immigration 'catch and release' could cost billions," by Franco Ordonez. **AZ Daily Star**, 2/13/17

In Arizona there are more than 300,000 undocumented immigrants. They pay nearly \$231.5 million in state and local taxes.

"What can Trump do? Sorting out his immigration plans," by Curt Prendergast. **AZ Daily Star**, 11/13/16; **ITEP (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy)**, 2/13/16

There has not been a program for regulating seasonal and low-skilled workers since a bilateral agreement ended in 1964. From 1909 to 1921 and again from 1942 to 1964, bilateral agreements worked to reduce illegal entry. We need a new Mexican/American agreement to regulate the flow of workers between countries.

"Shared Border, Shared Future: A blueprint to regulate U.S.-Mexico Labor Mobility," a report by **Center for Global Development**. Carlos Gutierrez and Ernest Zedillo, co-chairs of Working Group, Michael A. Clemens, lead author.

The demand for cheap labor in the U.S. and the willingness of employers to hire them has attracted immigrant workers. Agricultural businesses in places like California's central valley depend on migrant field workers.

"California farmers backed Trump, but now fear losing field workers," by Caitlin Dickerson and Jennifer Medina. **New York Times**, 2/9/17.