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Course

Date

Why Illegal Immigrants should not be given Citizenship

The issue of immigration in the United States has attracted a lot of attention over the recent years, sparking huge marches and rallies. Illegal immigration has prompted series of congressional hearings that have generated competing bills over immigration reforms. The current number of undocumented immigrants who live and work in the U.S is estimated to be 12 million. Although the government is making efforts such as introducing the guest-worker program with the aim of issuing citizenship and legal residency to the illegal immigrants who have stayed in the country for more than 5 years, their presence still causes a threat to the nation. Illegal immigration results in rise of security threat in the nation, increased economic burden among the taxpayers, and low employment wages among the native workers.

Illegal immigrants have caused security threat in America making the country vulnerable to reprisals such as terrorist attacks (Becerra et al. 115). It is argued that even though the number of undocumented immigrants has been on the rise since the 1990s, the rate of property and violent crimes of the population has decreased tremendously within the High Immigrant Jurisdictions. However, the reality is that most of the criminal activities causing massive deaths are a result of illegal immigrants' attacks (Becerra et al. 115). In the September 11, 2001 terror attack, for instance, the suspects that were arrested were all immigrants who had entered the country illegally with either fake visas or as faulty students. The costs associated with incarcerating immigrants is estimated to be \$5.8 billion between 2001 and 2004 only (Becerra et

al. 115). This means that the crimes caused by the illegal “aliens” also result in negative economic impacts.

Illegal immigration has also created a huge economic impact on U.S economy by increasing burden to the taxpayers (Becerra et al. 114). A key argument supporting the existence of illegal immigrants is that the population provides income to the state through tax collection every year; this ranges from \$2.2 million in Montana to \$3.2 billion in California. This, however, is not the case since the costs immigrants incur on the taxpayers are too high compared to the taxes they pay. According to Becerra et al., “aliens” create a huge economic drain because of the costs associated with education, federal and state health, law enforcement, and social services; this has resulted to diminished economic opportunities for the country’s citizens (114). Various anti-immigration organizations such as Center for Immigration Studies and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) posit that illegal immigrants utilize social welfare programs like the Woman, Infant, and Children (WIC) and school lunch programs that increase taxpayers’ economic burden.

Illegal immigrants invade the labor market in the U.S, and this has resulted to reduced minimum wages offered to the Native Americans and the legal immigrants (Borjas 4). It is asserted that when illegal immigrants access the labor market, they are able to offer their services at cheaper prices which helps employers and the country’s economy to generate a lot of revenues with cheaper labor costs. However, this is deniable since the phenomenon has resulted to the neglect the minimum wage limit set by the U.S labor laws, thus, lowering the overall wages provided to the American citizens looking for the same positions (Hotchkiss, Quispe-Agnoli, and Rios-Avila 12). Between 1990 and 2000, the mean annual wage of a male high school graduate fell by 4.5%; from \$358 to \$278. The typical wage for a college graduate also dropped from \$312

to \$213 (Borjas 3). The impact is even larger among the native minorities, with the wage of Hispanic and blacks lowering by 5% and 4.5% respectively (Borjas 6). This is as a result of the increased low-skilled workers who are illegal immigrants. With the rising number of immigrants, most Americans remain jobless in the competitive economic environments.

There are a lot of negative scenarios associated with providing citizenship to illegal immigrants in the country. First, by providing them with amnesty, the immigrants will increase insecurity in the nation. Their presence have been linked to past terror attacks including the September 11, 2001 bombing. Illegal immigrants also create unfavorable economic condition in the country especially on the fiscal budget of the taxpayers. The U.S government is already incurring costs on hospital, justice administration charges, education, and housing as a result of the illegal immigrants. By providing them with citizenship, the numbers will continue to rise and the country's debt will increase. Illegal immigrants has also affected the job economy because they provide employers with cheap labor. It is, thus, important that the American government disregard the possibility of providing citizenship to the immigrants.

Works Cited

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OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Illegal immigration has created a lot of controversies over the years which has generated various bill and congressional hearing to create reforms
- B. The current number of undocumented immigrants who live and work in the U.S is estimated to be 12 million.
- C. The existing Illegal immigrants have caused a rise of insecurity, increased economic burden among the taxpayers, and low employment wages.

II. BODY

- A. Illegal immigration has resulted to increased security threat in the U.S.
 - Even though there has been a rise in the undocumented immigrants since the 1990s, the rate crimes has decreased within the High Immigrant Jurisdictions. However, most of the criminal activities causing massive deaths result because of the illegal immigrants (Becerra et al. 115).
 - An example is the attackers in the September 11, 2001 bombing; the suspects were all immigrants
 - Becerra et al. estimates the costs associated with incarcerating immigrants to be \$5.8 billion between 2001 and 2004 only (115).
- B. Illegal immigrants have also created economic burden to the U.S economy, especially on the taxpayers.
 - It is argued that illegal immigrants provides income to the U.S economy through tax which ranges from \$2.2 million in Montana to \$3.2 billion in California.

- The economic burden created, however, exceeds the benefits. This is due to the costs associated with education, federal and state health, law enforcement, and social services (Becerra et al. 114).
- Illegal immigrants utilize social welfare programs like the Woman, Infant, and Children (WIC) and school lunch programs that increase taxpayers' economic burden.

C. Illegal immigration has also resulted to reduced minimum wages among the Native Americans and other legal immigrants in the country.

- The impact is the neglect the minimum wage limit by employers who lower the overall wages provided to the American citizens looking for the same positions (Hotchkiss, Quispe-Agnoli, and Rios-Avila 12).
- Between 1990 and 2001, the mean weekly wage of a male high school graduate had fallen by 22%; from \$358 to \$278 while that of high school dropouts had reduced from \$312 to \$213 in the same period (Borjas 3).
- This has resulted to increased joblessness with low wages in the competitive economic environments

III. CONCLUSION

A. In summary, illegal immigrants create negative impacts on the U.S environment.

B. The immigrants increase insecurity in the nation. They have been linked to past terror attacks including the September 11, 2001 bombing.

C. Illegal immigrants also increase the fiscal budget of the taxpayers. The U.S government is already incurring costs on hospital, justice administration charges, education, and housing as a result of the illegal immigrants.

- D. The immigrants have also affected the job economy because they provide employers with cheap labor.
- E. The government should, thus, disregard the possibility of providing citizenship to the illegal immigrants.