

CHAPTER 11

IMMIGRATION

“We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of men, to make them see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite.” President Woodrow Wilson



SUPPORT IMMIGRATION:
THE PILLARS OF AMERICA

America was founded on immigration and was built by immigrants. Experts agree that without immigration, this country would fail. As New York Times OP Ed contributors John M. McDonald and Robert J. Samson stated,

“America is neither less safe because of immigration nor is it worse off economically. In fact, in regions where immigrants have settled in the past two decades, crime has gone down, cities have grown, poor urban neighborhoods have been rebuilt and small towns which were once on life support are springing back.”

In the current political climate, some presidential candidates are seriously proposing that we round up and deport over 11 million people. Let us look at what could happen if such actions were taken.

First, it is not feasible to deport 11 million people from this country. Secondly, such deportations would result in an economic calamity for Americans.

For instance, in America, there are 325,000 brick masons, block masons and stonemasons. Of that number, 40% (131,000 people) are immigrant workers in the United States illegally.¹⁸ Thus, with the removal of this amount of our skilled masons, construction in America would be severely compromised, and it doesn't stop here.

The effect on our food supply would also have dramatic consequences. As of 2008, there were a total of 910,000 miscellaneous agricultural workers. Of that number, 269,000 were immigrant workers in the United States illegally.¹⁸ An obvious result of a deportation of the proposed magnitude would be a significant food shortage.

In my administration, I will give amnesty to all immigrants in this country with certain restrictions. Additionally, they will be required to register, receive a Social Security number, purchase healthcare insurance, get a job/develop a career and pay taxes. It is in our country's best interest to encourage immigration. It is time we solve our immigration problem and stop ostracizing people who are just like us.

