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Social Welfare Policy

Debate (pro)

April 13, 2020

Topic: Should We Open the Southern U.S. Border to Immigration?

Opening Statement: The Statue of Liberty was gifted to the United States of America by France as an emblem of their friendship and their mutual desire for “LIBERTY”. She is a bold universal representation of freedom for all people.

Lady Liberty stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor since 1886, where she welcomed millions of immigrants fleeing crop failure, land and job shortages, rising taxes, and famine, because it was perceived as the land of economic opportunity. Others came seeking personal freedom or relief from political and religious persecution.

She has become synonymous with freedom, equality, and opportunity for all who entered into America. Inscribed on a plaque at the base of the pedestal where she stands is a portion of a sonnet called “The New Colossus”, written by Emma Lazarus that says, *"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"* This is who new are, what America is made of. This sonnet speaks to those millions of immigrants of the 19th century who were in need of freedom, opportunity, and equality, whom America welcomed openly and readily. Today immigrants are still in need of the same freedom,

opportunity and equality of yester-year, this is why it is important that America open our Southern border.

(Our Opening was provided by Group member Dany Mc Phersond)

Each of us decided to elaborate on a specific point

4 Points of Debate:

1st Economics and Power (Dany Mc Phersond)

2nd Crime (Chris Aleys)

3rd Cultural integration (Monique Bristol)

4th Discrimination (Micayla Brodish)

Point 3 (Cultural Integration)

There are over 15 Million Mexican people residing within the United States to date. They have contributed greatly towards the economy as well as culturally. They come to America for various reasons and they become active members of society.

Point 1: According to the book, Immigrants coming from the Southern Borders participate in the labor market. They learn the language and become productive members of the working class. Many of them take jobs that offer little pay and advancement. They also take positions that regular citizens will not do.

Point 2: The book states, that the later generations 2nd, and 3rd increase their levels of education once assimilating which causes them to move up in social standing. They become more productive members of society and work towards developing middle class standings. When they

first arrive, they work jobs that no one wants for little pay. They then invest in their children's future and work towards accomplishing the American dream.

Point 3: As stated in the Article by Daniel Griswold, he stated that not only do the immigrants add to the economy they also bring in an enriched diverse culture that is sought after by its citizens. Their cuisine is in high demand and they have become a staple in many homes. For example, Taco Tuesday's and Margarita Mondays.

Point 4: As the book states, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States. It is taught in schools as well as colleges. It has become mainstream and is offered in most if not all government agencies. The language is so sought after that the pay for a bilingual employee in some cases more than the average employee.

1st Con Argument:

The book states that illegal immigration hurts low income workers as well as small business workers. They state that the illegal immigrants work below the pay grade and it undercuts the regular worker.

Counter argument: As stated before the jobs that the illegal immigrants are working are the jobs that are open to all citizens, but they do not want them.

2nd Con Argument:

The book also states that illegal immigration also puts a burden on the health system as well as other government run services. It mentions education, and public assistance.

Counter argument:

As stated, before illegal immigrants work harder and assimilate more than any other nationality. Also, in order to receive government services like public assistance you have to have a social

security number. In terms of education a child without legal status cannot obtain anything higher than a High School Diploma.

Closing Statement:

We have presented our argument for why the US should open the Southern Borders to immigration. As social workers it is our job to ensure the dignity and worth of every person as mandated by the code of ethics. Going back to the foundation of this country. The United States is the land of the free and the melting pot of the world.