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The DREAM Act

Economics

- Passage of the DREAM Act would allow undocumented immigrant children to make significant contributions to the U.S. economy. A 2010 University of California study projected that, over 40 years, the DREAM Act would represent an increase of \$1.4 to \$3.6 trillion in taxable income.

- The US confronts a serious shortage of skilled labor. An estimated 77 million baby boomers have already began to retire and there aren't enough workers to take their place (Su 2007). Educated and highly-skilled immigrant youth can replenish much of this labor force. Without the DREAM Act this will not happen!

Integration

- About 2 million undocumented youth are aware of ethnic and racial inequalities, but they believe it would be possible to reach equal opportunity through academic achievement (Rumbaut 2011). Even though they are undocumented and current immigration policies do not favor their educational advancement, as much as 65,000 undocumented students across the country graduate from high school every year (Abrego 2006).

- An estimated 1.9 million undocumented children and young adults in the U.S. might be eligible for legal status under the DREAM Act In Nebraska there are approximately between 11,000 to 20,000 children that would benefit from the DREAM Act (MPI 2010).

Crime

- While criminological theories point to a link between young males' low-educational attainment and crime, research shows that lower-educated immigrant youth have the lowest crime rates. Their rates go up as they face a hostile environment and no opportunities for further socioeconomic mobility (Rumbaut 2011). The DREAM Act would be a pathway to retain these low crime rates and further lower them.

Integration and Migration

LB48 and The DREAM Act

Fact sheet produced by students from the Migration and Integration Service Learning class of Spring 2011. For more information contact the Office of Latino Latin/American Studies (OLLAS) 402.554.3835 or visit our website: <http://www.unomaha.edu/ollas>.



Overview

Throughout U.S. history, immigration policies have varied between being inclusive and exclusive, with race and ethnicity as influential factors. Often times exclusive policies do not consider factors such as economic and political that cause or force people to migrate. Today we find ourselves in a similar situation with exclusive and inclusive immigration policies at both the state and national levels.

LB48 - the Arizona-style Law

In January 2011, 30 states introduced anti-immigrant bills. One of those states was Nebraska.

The proposed bill, LB48, would:

- Adopt the Illegal Immigration Enforcement Act.
- Give law enforcement the authority to inquire about a person's immigration status, if he/she had reasonable suspicion to believe the person was undocumented.
- Make it a crime to work in Nebraska without proper authorization
- Make it a crime to harbor or transport undocumented immigrants.

After the public hearing on LB 48 on March 2, 2011, it is still being held in the Judiciary Committee.

The Dream Act

In 2010, young adults across the U.S. rallied around the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would have placed undocumented immigrants 30 years and younger brought to the U.S. as children on a path toward citizenship, if they were to:

- Finish high school in the U.S., and
- Attend college for at least two years or
- Join the military

Although they worked hard in getting support for the bill in both the House and Senate, it failed to pass in the Senate by five votes on December 18, 2010.

Nebraska has its own DREAM Act, passed in 2006, which allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition. Although this bill has been challenged, including in the 2011 Legislative session, it has not been overturned.

Immigration and Integration

The impact of LB48

Myths & Facts

• Documented and undocumented immigrants are not a burden to the U.S. Economy.

Like everyone, immigrants pay taxes when they work and purchase goods. "If a total of 29,242 immigrant jobs were removed from the economy, the resulting direct impact on the dollar value of state production in 2006 would [have] be[en] a loss of \$6.4 billion." (Decker, Christopher S., Jerry Deichert, and Lourdes Gouveia) In 2006, Nebraska's immigrant spending generated about 12,121 jobs.

• **Immigrants do not come to the U.S. to exploit public benefits.** Nebraska's immigrant population paid about 7% more in taxes than what they consumed in public services. Most people immigrate because of war, hunger, freedom and opportunities to better themselves. Many employers recruit them for labor purposed by advertising to them in their home countries.

• **Laws such as SB1070 and LB48 can have devastating effects on the economy.** Fears of discrimination would force documented and undocumented immigrants, who contribute to the economy, to flee.



• According to the Pew Hispanic Center, there are about 45,000 undocumented immigrants in Nebraska. **It cost the federal government about \$12,500 dollars to deport one person,** costing more than \$562.5 million to deport all of Nebraska's undocumented immigrants.

• **Nebraska's LB 48 has potential for racial profiling.** The bill would allow officers to inquire about the immigration status of anyone if they reasonably suspect him/her to be unauthorized. Reasonable suspicion is different than probable cause, which is what law enforcement uses to determine if one is guilty of a crime; probable cause is determined by known facts and circumstances.

• **How would an officer determine a person's immigration status?** By the way a person dresses? How well a person speaks English? There are no known facts or circumstances surrounding a person's clothing or dominance of the English language that is proof that a person is undocumented.

• **The immigrant population would hesitate to report a crime,** coming forward as a witness and/or cooperating with the law enforcement because of fear of being detained.

• **In highly Latino concentration towns,** the police's time will be used to identify undocumented migrants instead of protecting the population from murderers, rapists, robbers, thieves, and drug dealers who are the real threat for the safety of the community.



In 2006, Nebraska's immigrant spending generated about 12,121 jobs.

Myth

Immigrants come to the U.S. to exploit public benefits and don't pay taxes.

Fact

Nebraska's immigrant population paid about 7% more in taxes than what they consumed in public services in 2008.