

Waukesha Citizens Against a Mass Deportation Agenda

Why we are here

We, members of SOPHIA, Grassroots Waukesha, and this community, are here to express our objection to President Trump's deportation agenda on both economic and moral grounds.

Economic argument

It is imperative that any rational immigration policy recognize the reality that the resource represented by undocumented workers is an essential element of the modern US economy.

Today 11 million undocumented immigrants from many countries live in the United States¹. An estimated 8 million¹ are in the labor force working in low skill jobs as housekeepers, restaurant, agriculture, dairy, and other industries⁹. The short-term effect of eliminating the undocumented workforce in the U.S. would be an estimated reduction of \$1.7 trillion in annual spending⁴.

Undocumented workers pay an estimated \$12 billion² in Social Security taxes and \$11.6 billion³ in sales, excise, property, and personal income taxes. If all undocumented immigrants in the country today were granted legal status through comprehensive immigration reform, their state and local tax contributions would increase by an estimated \$2.1 billion a year³.

In 2012, approximately 85,000 undocumented immigrants were living in Wisconsin⁵. Of that number 55,000⁵ were working and the majority of the rest were family members. The short-term effect of eliminating the undocumented workforce in Wisconsin would be an estimated reduction of \$8.3 billion in annual spending⁶.

Approximately 80% of the hired help on large Wisconsin dairy operations is immigrant labor — with a large percentage of those workers being undocumented⁷. Without them, many dairy farms in Wisconsin would go out of business and the cost of dairy products would soar⁸.

John Rosenow, a farmer in Buffalo County said...

“If ICE came in here and checked my employees and found that they were undocumented and those 10 people left, my next option of course is to close down ... and try to find a market for my cows and sell out. And I wouldn't be able to farm anymore and it would just about kill me. I have no choice. I mean the cows have to be milked. I know no other source of labor. ⁸”

Passing comprehensive immigration reform, allowing undocumented immigrants to step out of the shadows, will prevent a workforce shortage in the \$43 billion⁸ dollar Wisconsin dairy industry and many other Wisconsin businesses as well.

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Moral argument

Mass deportation will terrorize and destroy the lives of many good, hardworking people who are here trying to support their families by filling low wage jobs no one else wants.

Mexico accounts for approximately 55% of the undocumented immigrants in the United States¹⁰. In 1993, the NAFTA agreement facilitated the import of heavily subsidized U.S. corn and other staples into Mexico which devastated the small farm agricultural industry¹¹. This caused the loss of millions of jobs and a surge in migration to the U.S. which is partly to blame for the 6.2 million¹⁰ undocumented Mexican immigrant population currently living in the United States.

Approximately 66% of those immigrants have been here 10 years or more¹. Some families have children who know America as their only home. President Trump wishes to send them all back to an uncertain future. Many will suffer great hardships, widespread poverty, and be forced to return to a violent world.

Instead of passing comprehensive immigration reform and revising the costly and painfully slow naturalization process, the inability of Congress to act has left many people no other choice but to go underground.

The treatment of undocumented immigrants is unfair. The presence of undocumented immigrants in the US has been tolerated for many years because of the positive economic impact they have on our economy. Instead of being assimilated into American society and recognized for their contributions, in the public's eye, they are labeled simply as law breakers.

We are a nation of immigrants built by immigrants. The promise of opportunity to those who are willing to work hard should not be denied anyone. Immigration reform will help the best and brightest doctors, engineers, entertainers and entrepreneurs stay in the U.S. It will also help us stay true to our founding fathers' wishes.

The 287g Program¹²

Under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may deputize selected state and local law enforcement officers to perform the functions of federal immigration agents.

By destroying trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the community, 287g agreements have hindered the ability of the police force to fight crime. In addition, unreimbursed expenses for things like travel, salaries, and overtime have cost some communities millions of dollars.

Because immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, the civil enforcement of immigration laws should remain in the hands of the federal government, not transferred further to local or state law enforcement authorities whose role is maintaining public safety and fighting crime.

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What can be done

The following guidelines entitled Recommended Law Enforcement Policies can be adopted by local, county, and state law enforcement agencies to protect the rights and dignity of the people they are sworn to protect while at the same time not violate federal law.

The following rule, which is the only applicable federal law in this area, says that although local law enforcement cannot lie or omit information they gather in a criminal case when ICE asks for it, they are not required to gather or offer immigration status information proactively.

1373 Rule: Under 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and 8 U.S.C. § 1644, federal law prohibits [County/City/State] officials from imposing limits on maintaining, exchanging, sending, or receiving information regarding citizenship and immigration status with any Federal, State, or local government entity. Nothing in [County/City/State] policies is intended to violate 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and 8 U.S.C. § 1644.

The second thing all citizens must do is fight for comprehensive, fair, and humane immigration law that will enable millions of people to come out of the shadows, be recognized as contributors to our economy, and stop living in fear.

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Recommended Law Enforcement Policies

(source.. the American Civil Liberties Union)

#1) The Judicial Warrant Rule: [County/City/State] officials shall require a judicial warrant prior to detaining an individual or in any manner prolonging the detention of an individual at the request of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

#2) No Facilitation Rule: [County/City/State] officials shall not arrest, detain, or transport an individual solely based on an immigration detainer or other administrative document issued by ICE or CBP, without a judicial warrant.

#3) Defined Access/Interview Rule: Unless acting pursuant to a court order or a legitimate law enforcement purpose that is unrelated to the enforcement of a civil immigration law, no [County/City/State] official shall permit ICE or CBP agents access to [County/City/State] facilities or any person in [County/City/State] custody for investigative interviews or other investigative purposes.

#4) Clear Identification Rule: To the extent ICE or CBP has been granted access to [County/City/State] facilities, individuals with whom ICE or CBP engages will be notified that they are speaking with ICE or CBP, and ICE or CBP agents shall be required to wear duty jackets and make their badges visible always while in [County/City/State] facilities.

#5) Don't Ask Rule: [County/City/State] officials shall not inquire into the immigration or citizenship status of an individual, except where the inquiry relates to a legitimate law enforcement purpose that is unrelated to the enforcement of a civil immigration law, or where required by state or federal law to verify eligibility for a benefit, service, or license conditioned on verification of certain status.

#6) Privacy Protection Rule: No [County/City/State] official shall voluntarily release personally identifiable data or information to ICE or CBP regarding an inmate's custody status, release date or home address, or information that may be used to ascertain an individual's religion, ethnicity or race, unless for a law enforcement purpose unrelated to the enforcement of a civil immigration law.

#7) Discriminatory Surveillance Prohibition Rule: No [County/City/State] agency or official shall authorize or engage in the human or technological surveillance of a person or group based solely or primarily upon a person or group's actual or perceived religion, ethnicity, race, or immigration status.

#8) Redress Rule: Any person who alleges a violation of this policy may file a written complaint for investigation with [oversight entity].

#9) Fair and Impartial Policing Rule: No [County/City/State] official shall interrogate, arrest, detain or take other law enforcement action against an individual based upon that individual's perceived race, national origin, religion, language, or immigration status, unless such personal characteristics have been included in timely, relevant, credible information from a reliable source, linking a specific individual to a criminal event/activity.

Main Talking Points

Economic

- U.S. and Wisconsin businesses (jobs, products and services) rely on undocumented workers. It is imperative that any rational immigration policy recognize the reality that the resource represented by undocumented workers is an essential element of the modern US economy.

The short-term effect of eliminating the undocumented workforce

	U.S.	Wisconsin
Annual Spending	\$1.7 trillion ⁴	\$8.3 billion ⁶
Jobs	8.0 million ¹	55,000 ⁵

- Undocumented workers pay taxes. In the United States, it is estimated...
 - \$12 billion in social security taxes²
 - \$11.6 billion in state and local taxes³

Moral

- Undocumented immigrants are hardworking people looking for opportunity to survive and support their families. Many undocumented workers today, are forced to live apart from the families they are supporting and choose to work long hours on difficult jobs because they have no other choice.
- The treatment of undocumented immigrants is unfair. The presence of undocumented immigrants in the US has been tolerated for many years because of the positive economic impact they have on our economy. Instead of being assimilated into American society and recognized for their contributions, in public's eye they are labeled as law breakers.

The 287g Program

- Federal law does not require local, county and state law enforcement to proactively enforce federal immigration laws.
- The program is very costly.
- The program hinders policing by destroying trust and cooperation with the community.