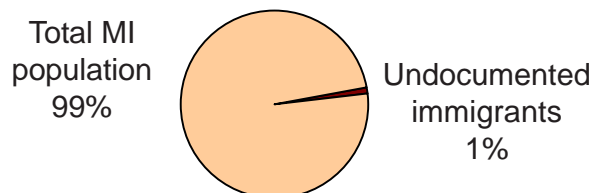




Fact Sheet: Michigan Immigration

WHO—Immigrants (the foreign-born) make up 5.8 percent of the population in Michigan. Undocumented immigrants include anyone residing in the country lacking documents required for legal immigration or residence. Only 1.4 percent of the state's total population or 1.7 percent of the labor force are undocumented immigrants. Furthermore, the number of undocumented immigrants entering the United States has been on the decline since 2007.

Percentage of Undocumented Immigrants in Michigan, 2009



Source: Pew Research Center, 2009

WHAT—An Arizona-style immigration bill has been proposed in Michigan. The Immigration Law Enforcement Act, Senate Bill 1388 and House Bill 6256, would have state police enforcing immigration laws and require them to request immigration papers from anyone they suspect of being in the state illegally.

WHY—Recent polls show that two-thirds of likely voters in Michigan support the controversial Arizona-style law to control illegal immigration. Yet, Michigan does not compare to Arizona regard-

ing their undocumented immigrant population. Undocumented immigrants in Arizona account for 5.8 percent of the total state population, and 7.5 percent of the labor force. These numbers are five to seven times the size of Michigan's undocumented immigrant population.

HOW—State enforcement of immigration laws raises serious questions about basic civil rights and the best ways to deter illegal immigration. Michigan could stand to lose over \$3.8 billion in economic activity by removing undocumented workers from the labor force. The personal income of all undocumented workers in Michigan accounts for over \$1 billion in taxable income for the state. Beyond the loss in revenue, the state would be increasing its expenditures. In Arizona, just to implement the bill through increased local law enforcement will cost the state an estimated \$10 million. This amount does not include the legal fees associated with lawsuits, and the increasing number of entities boycotting business relations with Arizona.

Fact 1:

Immigrants benefit our local economy. Between 1996 and 2007, 15.8 percent of all Michigan businesses were started by an immigrant. Asian and Latino-owned businesses produced over \$8.3 billion in annual business income and employed over 60,000 people in 2002. Arab Americans alone account for over \$554 million in state tax revenue each year.

Fact 2:

Immigrants increase resources. More people paying into the system means more benefits and

less cost. Health care costs for the average immigrant are 55 percent less than costs for the average native-born citizen. Not only do they utilize fewer services, they add to service funds. Nationally, undocumented immigrants contribute \$8.5 billion in Social Security and Medicare funds annually.

Fact 3:

Immigrants do not increase the crime rate.

Immigrants have lower incarceration rates than their native-born counterparts, even when facing disproportionate rates of poverty and low levels of education. Nationally, native-born men, ages 18-39 are actually five times more likely to be incarcerated.

Fact 4:

Immigrants are coming to the states legally.

Almost half of all undocumented immigrants entered the states legally, but their visas expired and they have not left the country. Yearlong waiting periods and the requirements needed to acquire citizenship make it very difficult for immigrants to remain legal and not be separated from their families.

Fact 5:

Immigrants increase state revenue. Immigrants contribute more than their share of the revenue to the local economy. Michigan's largest city, Detroit, has a 9 percent foreign-born population who contribute 11 percent to the city's economic output. This positive ratio is consistent in the nation's top 25 metro cities.

Fact 6:

Immigrants create opportunity. Immigrants tend to have different skills and education levels than the native-born workforce, thus complementing the job pool and increasing production, which in turn increases the number of jobs and wages for everyone. In Michigan, immigrants provide our state with a competitive advantage in the most economically successful high-tech job market. Immigrants in Michigan are responsible

for 32.8 percent of all high-tech startups, making Michigan 3rd among all states to produce new high-tech business opportunities.

Fact 7:

Immigrants do not raise unemployment rates.

Nationally, immigrants only make up 3.1 percent of the population in counties with the highest (over 13.4%) unemployment rates, and make up 4.6 percent of the population in counties with the lowest (below 4.8%) unemployment rates. Currently, Arizona has seven times the amount of undocumented immigrants in the labor force, yet has an overall unemployment rate of 9.6 percent, compared with Michigan's 13.9 percent.

Fact 8:

Immigration reform supports U.S. jobs.

Higher-paying jobs means increased consumer spending. Nationally, over the first three years, immigration reform could add up to \$1.5 trillion to the GDP, enough to support up to 900,000 jobs and increase tax revenue by \$5.4 billion.

Conclusion

With undocumented immigrants only making up only 1.4 percent of the Michigan population, and with sizeable contributions to local economies and job creation, it does not make fiscal sense to spend money the state does not have on enforcing an Arizona-style proposal. Michigan needs to focus on more pressing issues at hand, such as creating jobs, decreasing the deficit, and increasing revenue—all things immigrants bring to the state.

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