6006 Industrial Street

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Senator Ted Cruz

808 Travis Street
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Dear Senator,

There has been an intense and divisive debate in recent times with regards to the influence of immigrants in the United States. Many people have deemed immigration as a negative influence on the people of the U.S. because immigrants create more competition for jobs which are already scarce, undermine the American culture and national identity, and create security concerns for people in the country who are living in relative harmony. The debate has culminated in the executive directive made by President Donald Trump to ban immigrants from several Muslim countries from accessing the United States, and limiting immigration from many other countries in the world. However, no country can prosper economically by closing its borders and isolating itself from the rest of the world. Even though Immigration causes competition for jobs and resources, immigration should be encouraged because it motivates economic growth, creates positive cultural diversity, and enhances innovation.

Immigration fuels the economy by increasing the size of the workforce. Peter B. Dixon, a Harvard Professor of Economics, explains that even though immigrants increase the productivity of their home economies and raise foreign GDPs, they also concurrently improve the economy of their host country. Dixon explains that this phenomenon is known as the immigration surplus, and it accounts for the substantial contribution which immigrants make towards the economy of the host countries. With this in mind, it would be prudent to encourage immigration rather than to turn away people who stand to create more wealth for the country.

In addition, immigration creates cultural diversity and enhances intercultural cooperation which also leads to cultural and social benefits for the host countries. Eric Fassin, a sociologist who has written extensively about immigration and culture, explains that even though it is important to retain native cultural and national identities, cultural diversity has always been the hallmark of the United States. The country was built and sustained by people who came from all over the world and settled in North America with the promise of economic prosperity. They built the country and made it the world power that it has become today. As such, it is myopic and selfish to prevent other people from having a similar chance to contribute towards the prosperity of America. Even though times have changed, and people have changed, the American dream has never changed.

Many people who come into America from other countries transfer their skills, ideas and wealth into the U.S. Whether it is a lowly garden worker or a senior corporate advisor, immigrants come with new experiences and skills which increase innovation in the host country. George Bojas of Princeton University explains that banning immigration prevents a host country from benefiting from the innovation that comes with immigration. Countries which do not encourage immigration ultimately lose out on international competition because they lack the innovation which is necessary to enhance their competitiveness.

Despite the fact that some concerns regarding immigration may be legitimate, much of the debate surrounding the issue has been fueled by misinformation and politics. In truth, immigration is essential to national economic growth. Cultural diversity which is created by immigration promotes cross-cultural cooperation and enhances social growth. Banning immigration prevents a country from accessing the vast wealth and innovation that comes with international exposure. The United States should be more receptive towards immigrants in order to retain its place as a global leader economically and culturally.

Sincerely,

Jumanah Aldosarry

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