

William Larsen
Candidate for Indiana's 3rd District U.S. Representative
April 1, 2006

Steven Camarota is the Research Director for the Center of Immigration Studies. He spoke before a panel, which provides quantitative support against amnesty for illegal aliens as well as looking at increasing immigration.

I highly recommend you listen to his testimony on C-SPAN. It is about 19 minutes long, but very, very informative. He does a very good job.

C-span

Steven Camarota, Research Dir., Center for Immigration Studies

Steven Camarota, Research Director for the Center for Immigration Studies, discusses the guest worker program.

3/29/2006: WASHINGTON, DC: 45 min.

Terms:

Natives are referred to U.S. born or naturalized

Immigrants include both legal and illegal

- 80% of immigrants have a high school education.
- 18 to 64 year olds are make up the work force
- The workforce includes those holding a job, unemployed and those who have left the job market.
- There are four findings
 - There are 65 million natives with a high school education
 - 4 million are unemployed
 - 19 million have left the job market (no longer looking, the gave up)
 - The idea that there is no one there to fill a job is just plain wrong
- Between 2000 and 2005 with a high school education
 - Saw unemployment increased by 1 million.
 - Saw those not looking increased by 1.5 million
 - Those who did not complete high school saw their percentage holding a job decrease from 59% to 56%.
 - Those with a high school education saw their percentage holding a job decrease from 78% to 75%.
 - The economic recovery has not helped these less educated workers, why?
- The idea that natives will not perform jobs is just plain wrong.
 - Occupations with highest immigrant participation have 22 million natives in the same occupations.
 - There are 14 million less educated natives in heavily immigrant occupations.
 - If there were jobs that natives would not perform, then there would be few natives in these occupations.
 - In the highest concentration of immigrant occupations there are 1.7 million natives unemployed.
- The Department of Labor and Commerce track 473 specific occupations to divide the economy.

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- The number of immigrants counted represent 100% of legal and 90% of illegal workers.
- There was no majority occupation that immigrants do that natives do not. If there were, it would show up as 80% to 90% of an occupation being immigrant.
- There are 35 occupations where immigrants make up nearly 1/3 of the workers but these occupations represent just 7% of the total U.S. Workforce.
- These 35 occupations have 5 million natives employed.
- ½ the native born drop outs and 1/3 of the natives with only a high school education are in occupations that have 15% immigrants.
- Native workers face significant competition in Construction, Cab Drivers, Nannies, Maids and Housekeepers where most are native workers.
- Those who hold the position that immigrants perform jobs that natives won't tend to be better-educated and more affluent natives.
- Findings
 - Less educated natives do less well
 - States who saw largest share of immigrant workers saw largest decline in less educated native employment.
 - Share of less educated native workforce declined by 5% locally and 3% nationally.
 - Less educated natives left the workforce in greater percentages in states with highest immigration.
 - Occupations with most immigrants have highest unemployment among natives.
 - Natives do the worse even though they do the same job.
 - Immigrants make less, but only due to less education, not job skill.
 - In 1980 when the amnesty of illegals took place, wages increased by 5%.
 - This means the penalty in terms of wages for being illegal is about 5%.
 - The increase in supply of workers lowers:
 - Benefits
 - Wages
 - Working conditions
 - Immigrants are perceived as better workers than natives
 - Immigrants do much better at networking in terms of getting job.
- Conclusions:
 - In 2005 there were 4 million natives unemployed and 19 million who stopped looking for work.
 - The share of unemployed with less education is way up.
 - The U.S. does not have a 5% unemployment rate. The 5% unemployment rate is used to support immigration.
 - Unemployment among less educated natives is up 11% while it is 13% for dropouts.
 - The perception is the U.S. is in need of less educated workers, which is not true.
 - They already have the highest unemployment rate
 - The lowest wage rate
 - Employment participation among less educated had declined dramatically.

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- They took the poorest workers and made them poorer.
- Less educated immigrants and less educated natives do the same kinds of work.
- There is no such thing as a job a native will not do.
- Allowing legal status to illegals has enormous implications for America's poorest workers.
- America is not short of less educated workers given the high unemployment rate and the high number of less educated workers who have stopped looking.

References:

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2004/sactestimony042904.html>

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2005/back505.pdf>

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2005/back505.html>