

## Why Every Citizen Worker Should Support Legalization of Immigrants

### Only the Super Rich 1% Benefit from Anti-Immigrant Laws

*The capitalists want us  
workers to blame everyone  
but them for our hardships.  
The richer they get, the more  
they lie. Here are the facts:*



**LIE: “Immigrants don’t pay taxes”**

**FACT: Corporations, billionaires don’t pay taxes. Immigrants do.**

- ◆ Undocumented immigrants paid \$492 billion in sales and property taxes in 2019. That’s \$331 billion in federal taxes and \$161 billion in state and local taxes.
- ◆ In 2016, immigrants paid \$13.3 billion into Social Security and \$3.3 billion to Medicare, most of which they will never get back. (Data source: Institute on Taxation and Economy Policy)
- ◆ In Louisiana, the richest 1% only pay 7.4% of state and local taxes. 42% of Louisiana’s tax revenue comes from sales taxes, which fall heaviest on workers. Wages in Louisiana are among the lowest in the country (ranked 41 out of 50).

- ◆ In 2020, 55 profitable corporations paid \$0 taxes and received \$3.5 billion in tax rebates. According to a 2023 Government Accounting Office report, 34% of large profitable corporations paid \$0 in federal income taxes.
- ◆ Amazon got out of \$5.2 billion in federal taxes in 2021 and made record profits. Giant companies like AT&T, Dow, and AIG Insurance paid zero taxes while Fortune 100 companies like Ford, Bank of America, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Merck, Morgan Stanley Bank, Verizon, Coca Cola, Microsoft, and UPS all paid less than 10%.

**LIE: “Immigrants drain government funds”**

**FACT: Bailouts to corporations and banks, corporate tax exemptions, and war profiteers drain government funds.**

- ◆ In March 2023, the Federal Government spent \$124 billion bailing out the banks. In 2008, they spent \$14 trillion dollars

bailing out banks and corporations. \$14 trillion = \$14,000,000,000,000.

- ◆ Every year more than \$1 trillion of our tax dollars is handed over to war profiteers. The Pentagon consumes more than half the discretionary budget.
- ◆ Over twenty years, 1,400 Louisiana corporations got out of \$23 billion in taxes. These are state tax exemptions put in place by the same politicians that these corporations sponsor. Louisiana is handing out \$65 million to insurance companies who are writing policies we can't afford and are rated low so they won't pay out what they should if we need it. (Source: Together Louisiana: Tax Exemptions: Biggest Corporate Welfare Program in the US)
- ◆ Louisiana has a budget surplus of \$1.5 billion in expected revenue and \$726 billion from last year. This is in a state with the worst record for childhood poverty (26.3%).

75% of the workers responsible for feeding the country are undocumented. During COVID, thousands of these workers and their family members died from working in crowded food processing plants. They were never eligible for COVID stimulus money or unemployment. Migrant workers in New Orleans rebuilt the city after Ida and Katrina without ever getting aid from FEMA.

Not having emergency benefits to fall back on forces migrant workers to work jobs at very low wages. This brings down the wages of all workers. All workers and their families should have a safety net.

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**LIE: "Immigrants are making life hard for citizen workers"**

**FACT: Profit-hungry bosses are behind high prices and cuts to social programs.**

- ◆ Food, energy corporations, and banks are raking in record profits as the costs of housing, food, and fuel have reached 40-year highs. Here's what the head of Barclays Bank said in 2022: "the longer inflation lasts and the more widespread it is, the more cover it gives us to raise prices."
- ◆ Food prices are up 20%. The meat company Tyson doubled its profits in 2021. General Mills raised prices 5 times in 2021, boosting their profits by 97%.

The crop giant Cargill got \$6.7 billion in profits in 2022, up 200% from 2020. This was the biggest profit in the company's 156-year history.

- ◆ While gas prices soared, Exxon made \$56 billion in profits in 2022, Shell made \$40 billion, and Chevron profited \$36 billion.
- ◆ More than \$100 billion of our tax dollars have been pumped into the US/NATO provoked war in Ukraine. Who profits? Energy companies like Chevron and war profiteers like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. Who pays the price? Workers.

The Government steps in to bail out banks and corporations but not the people. We are facing a hunger catastrophe as food stamps were cut drastically as well Medicaid. Next, the millionaires' club in Congress wants to cut Social Security and raise the retirement age to until we die. We need to restore the pandemic era SNAP supplements and expand access to immigrants. We need to expand Medicaid access to all workers, citizen and undocumented.



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**LIE: "Immigrants are taking jobs"**

**FACT: Corporations lay off, replace workers, and slash wages to maximize profits.**

- ◆ Major, profitable companies like Walmart, Twitter, Amazon, Meta, and Google are laying off hundreds of thousands of workers.

- ◆ Companies are allowed to run away to other countries and then put their profits in offshore tax-avoiding accounts. It's estimated that \$4 trillion of US wealth is stashed away in tax-free accounts.
- ◆ The US government helps companies set up production in countries where workers' wages are low. Then, it supplies weapons to US corporate-controlled governments to prevent workers from organizing. Walmart gets billions in tax breaks every year while workers in Haiti to produce Walmart clothes for \$7.50 a day. Meanwhile, 6 members of the Walton family have more wealth than 49 million American families combined.
- ◆ Companies took COVID rescue money and laid off workers anyway. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, of the \$800 billion in PPP loans meant for companies' payroll, 75% went to shareholders, not workers.
- ◆ Companies get tax exemptions for automation and new technology to lay us off. In 2009, GM got billions in bailouts then shut down 20 plants and cut wages and benefits.
- ◆ Free Trade Agreements like NAFTA cut taxes on US corporations so that they could flood Mexico with US products like corn, destroying Mexico's rural economy and forcing Mexican workers to leave their homes and families just to survive.
- ◆ US corporations use guest worker programs (H2-A and H2-B) to bring immigrants from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean to work in agriculture, construction, food processing, and healthcare. These workers are often trafficked into the program, have no rights, and suffer horrible conditions. Louisiana Attorney General Landry, who foams at the mouth against immigrants, used this program to get a \$17 million contract to exploit skilled welders at his companies.
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2016, Louisiana corporations saved \$23 billion through the Louisiana Industrial Tax Exemption Program by promising to create jobs. Instead, these companies cut 26,000 jobs. (Source: Together Louisiana)



LIE: "Making immigrants illegal helps US-born workers"

**FACT: It's just the opposite:  
Full rights for immigrants  
benefit all workers.**

As the AFL-CIO national union writes "History has shown, whenever one group of workers is denied access to workplace protections, all workers' rights are in jeopardy. In this country the restructuring of the world's economy caused a decline in jobs. As corporations move jobs out of the US seeking the lowest wages... standards sink for workers here and abroad. Workers in every nation are victims of corporate greed."

- ◆ The capitalist system of profit over people is responsible for the difficulties we face, not immigrants. Bankers invest money to exploit workers across the world, displacing millions of people who only seek to feed their families. There are no borders in the workers' struggle.
- ◆ Racism and legal segregation are set up by and for the bosses. The low wages of the US South are a direct legacy of Jim Crow laws. When Black workers or any other oppressed workers are paid super low wages, it brings down the wages of all workers. An injury to one is an injury to all.

By making workers "illegal" bosses can pay lower wages, deny benefits, and disrupt organizing under the threat of deportation or prison. The very thing they tell us is bad—legalizing immigrants—is actually good for all workers. But then again, that's why the bosses lie!

# Workers' Bill of Rights

Repeal "Free Trade" agreements

Make it illegal to move plants out of the country

Raise the minimum wage to \$20 an hour

Make banks and corporations pay taxes

Full legal rights for immigrants

Abolish ICE and shut down migrant prisons

Provide disaster relief, food relief, and healthcare for immigrants

Protect the right to organize unions

Enact price rollbacks and price controls

End corporate city and state tax exemptions and welfare for the rich

Stop discrimination by race, sex, gender, age, disability, and immigration status

Stop U.S. wars for the rich and use war money for peoples' needs



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