

October Newsletter

Better(not bigger)Vermont



What We've Been Up To

A difficult issue that must be resolved to achieve a stable population in Vermont is immigration. A certain level of immigration is both in our Nation's best interest and morally compelling.

In 2018, the total fertility rate TFR in the United States was only 1.76 births per female, well below the "replacement level" 2.1 TFR needed to maintain a constant population level

(<https://cis.org/Report/Fertility-Among-Immigrants-and-NativeBorn-Americans>). In other words, without immigration, our population would actually DECREASE. In contrast, our current immigration levels guarantee that the destructive impacts of population growth will continue.

By analyzing population projections published by the U.S. Census Bureau in September 2018, the Center for Immigration Studies found that

(<https://cis.org/Report/Projecting-Impact-Immigration-US-Population>)...

- Net immigration (the difference between the number coming and number leaving) will increase U.S. population from 326 million to over 400 million, accounting for 95 percent of the expected 79 million increase between 2017 and 2060.

- If net immigration were reduced by two-thirds, the U.S. population would STABILIZE to roughly 350 million in the 2040-2050 timeframe.

Some argue that without immigration there will not be enough workers to support the economy. Yet the Census Bureau projections indicate that in 2060, 59 percent of the population will be of working-age (16-64) compared to a quite similar 58 percent under the stabilization scenario. In addition, if the share of working-age people who are actually employed were increased to 75% from 70 percent, which is low by historic standards, the number of workers could be maintained with without net immigration. Alternately, raising the retirement age two years, even assuming zero net immigration, has about the same impact on the working-age share or ratio of workers to retirees in 2060 as the level of net immigration projected by the Census Bureau.

Congress has the authority to set immigration levels. However, setting lower immigration quotas is meaningless if we continue to have mass levels of illegal immigration. Illegal immigration is caused by employers who defy Federal law and deliberately hire undocumented immigrants. By doing so, these employers unfairly minimize their payroll costs; and they also depress wages for legal residents who compete for those same jobs.

Fortunately, there is a humane solution to stop employers from hiring undocumented immigrants. The IRS has an online system, E-Verify, which employers can use to verify that an employee's name, birth date, and EIN (social security number) match what's in the Social Security Administration's database. It has been used successfully for many years by many employers, including the Federal government itself. Some states require that all their employers use E-Verify. But it's totally unfair to make businesses in one state follow Federal law while their competitors in other states violate the law to lower their labor costs.

Congress should require ALL employers to use E-Verify. By doing so, illegal immigration would largely be eliminated; workers would receive higher wages; and the U.S. would have hope of stabilizing its population. Legislation has been introduced to do just that ("Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act"), and there is a petition asking that Congress pass this bill. Please consider signing this petition, and ask others to sign it as well...

<https://npg.org/e-verify-petition.html>

Thank you for reading about this difficult subject!

-Bob Fireovid, Executive Director

How You Can Help

Better(not bigger)Vermont works to improve the lives and natural surroundings of present and future Vermonters. Please support our efforts by making a donation and/or forwarding this newsletter to others.

Thank You!

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