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Deportation

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### Abstract

Deportations of unauthorized immigrants continue at record levels. Since President Barack Obama took office two-thirds of the nearly 2 million deportation cases involve people who had committed minor infractions, or had no criminal record at all. In this paper I will address the issues people have with deportations. I will talk about the impact deportations play on a family and the toll it takes on the people they leave behind. I will provide information done by the US census showing the effects deportation has had on the population. I will also provide information for you from scholarly articles about the effects it has on the younger population and personal stories about young adults who have faced these situations. You will see how this not only affects their families but the community overall. I will provide you with information about how the government has addressed the deportation and the tactics they have taken to provide a better solution for it.

*Keywords:* Deportation, Immigrants

Immigrants leave their homeland behind to come and find the American dream. They try to establish a life beyond what they are used to for a better future for their children. They face many challenges to get to the United States, but one of their biggest challenges awaits them when they arrive. They live in fear of being deported and everything they have ever worked for will be gone in a blink of an eye. Deportation is a serious problem going on in the United States, it's an issue that affects not only immigrants but the community as a whole. Not only are adults being affected by this but so are children. There are many misconceptions about deportation and the effects deportation plays on everyone's life, therefore in this paper I will discuss and try to asses any questions you may have on this subject.

First I will address some of the issues and myths about immigrant's people have. One of the main ones is that they are taking American citizens jobs. Americans claim that they come to the United States to take away the jobs of American citizens. However statistics show that the majority of jobs done by immigrants is field/ farm work. Jobs that U.S born citizens will not do. Another issue talked about is that they are just here to take advantage of the health care system and of government funded programs like Welfare. However a huge myth is that undocumented individuals have access to these programs. Immigrants have no access to these programs whatsoever, when applying for these programs they do a background check and do require you to have a social security number. They do however contribute to the Social Security for others and will never see a dollar they contributed throughout the years they worked. Also, a myth commonly told between citizens is that they do not pay taxes. Undocumented workers do pay taxes and they receive an itin number which is an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. This allows undocumented individuals to file their federal tax return. Not only this but they also pay taxes wherever they go, they aren't asked for their social security number when paying so

like everyone else they also pay taxes. These are only a few of the myths that I felt were important to address and inform before continuing this paper.

A couple of quick facts and topics that will be addressed throughout my research paper are who is being deported, the effects it has on the community, the effect it has on children, and what we can do to change this. First of all the United States admits immigrants into the country as lawful permanent residents, also known as LPR's or green card holders. They file for a green card while in their home country and most come to the United States that way. However these green cards do have expiration dates and most wait for their permit to expire because they learn to love the United States, and although they love their home country they know they have no future there, because of this they are now at risk of being deported. Also more than 100,000 children have been affected by illegal deportation and of these 88,000 are U.S. citizens. This means that either one or both parents were deported and that the child left with his/her parents or stayed in the United States. Parental deportation plays a huge toll on American born children, I will address this issue later on. Another huge misconception is about the kind of people who are being deported. They claim criminals are being deported nevertheless over 50% of the people deported are people who commit minor infractions.

I will first address who is being deported. We are constantly told stories about the people that are being deported and President Obama has even said it himself "Criminals, gang bangers, and people who are hurting the community are being deported." However this isn't fully true, although some of the people who are being deported are dangerous over 50% of them are immigrants who have not committed any crimes or have committed minor infractions. An example of a minor infraction is a traffic violations like forgetting to turn your turn signal on. This is an infraction thousands of people commit a day however if a undocumented individual

does it they might be at risk of being stop and even being deported. For this reason many don't even get a license. In an article done by Reform Immigration for America we learn about Shannon's story, Shannon is a U. S citizen who married Hector a man from Honduras who was filling for citizenship. He has two U.S born children and has absolutely no criminal record, has paid all of his taxes and speaks proficient English. He is a soccer coach, mentor for at-risk children. However none of this was able to keep Hector from being deported, he missed out on his sons 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and his oldest daughter still cries herself to sleep. This is just one of the many stories we hear about every day. Families like Shannon's are constantly being separated because of our broken immigration laws.

Many think well who cares this doesn't affect me. Deport them all and send them back to their country. However many don't understand the effect this will have on the economy. An example of this is Arizona. Arizona passed a bill where they can stop people who they believe to be here without legal documentation and deport them. This played a huge toll on the Arizona economy, with many being deported and the other leaving because they don't support these laws. People don't understand the severity of this law and many others. I feel like a good example that hits close is the raid that happened in a Mexican restaurant in Yakima WA. El Mirador was raided by ICE because they had speculation that they were hiring undocumented individuals. Over half of the employees and the owners were taken into custody. This caused the business to close down for a few days. Along with this raid ten other homes were also raided and were taken into custody by ICE. This is something that happens all the time especially in places who have a big Chicano population. In the census done in 2012 46% of the population in Yakima was Hispanic or Latino. The employees from El Mirador were just trying to make a decent living and weren't allowed to because of ICE. We actually talked about this in my Chicano Studies class

and I was surprised to hear many students were shocked that ICE would deport the employees. Many of my peers who expressed their opinion were Anglos and were actually in shock, they thought it wasn't a big deal that they were working without legal documentation, one student said " Well as long as they pay taxes I don't see what's wrong it." Another student added "Yeah, I'd rather see them working there than selling drugs." It made me happy to see how open minded and understanding my peers were and made me realize how very few people like them there really are.

"What this country is doing is not in the best interest of their American-citizen children"- Rita Altman. Like I mentioned before children are the ones most affected by parental deportation. When they're parents are deported many end up leaving with their parents to a place they don't even know, however some stay here. With a family member or even in foster care. They also suffer serious psychological harm like increased depression, sleeplessness, and anxiety. They also suffer serious declines in educational performance they aren't used to stressing so much about something and therefore they're school work is affected by this. Many also don't know how to deal with all the stress and turn to drugs and gangs. They feel like they get the family environment with their gang, something they no longer receive at home. This really hits home to me because I had to suffer through parental deportation. My father was deported when I was 16 years old it definitely played a toll on my life I was active in school sports and clubs however when my father was deported we were no longer able to live the way we had. I had to quit all the sports and clubs and get a job, I was no longer able to do all the teenager things I was so used to doing I went straight to work after school and missed out on homecoming dances and prom, things many high school students look forward to. My mom is old fashioned and believes you marry one man and stay with him forever, therefore we picked up

our life and moved to Mexico. We lived there for a year when I eventually decided to come back to the United States on my own. I realized that without an education I have nothing, and in Mexico I wasn't going to be able to get the same education as in the United States. I went from home to home, living on my own, with friends, and different family members. I also had to make up my junior year in high school and took fourteen classes in one semester. Although I faced challenges many other students my age wouldn't normally go through I think I'm lucky. Lucky compared to many other young adults who have been in my shoes and didn't have anyone to turn to. I was lucky to have family members and friends willing to take me in and help me finish high school. I'll be the first to admit and say it would have been much easier to give in and turn to drugs. However that wasn't what I wanted in life, I knew that my parents had to face many struggles to come to the United States and the best inheritance was being born in the United States. I have opportunities many others don't and I felt like I owe it to my parents to do something not only for myself but for them and my siblings. However not everyone is as lucky as I was.

Time magazine did an article titled "We are Americans just not legally" and we hear stories from many undocumented individuals. Not just Chicano/as we read stories about people from other countries trying to find the American dream. For example Julieta Garibay was brought to the United States at the age of 11, she is 31 today and has a masters in nursing however the only job she is able to obtain is a babysitting job. If this doesn't change your mindset I honestly don't know what will. Reading about this breaks my heart because I know individuals facing the same situation, a close friend of mine got a full ride scholarship to pursue a career as an engineer. However she is undocumented and many times tells me she doesn't know why she even tries. Many say well what can we do to change this? One huge thing anyone can do



is protest. Stand up and voice your opinion, that is what is great about our country we can question our government. When we see how broken our immigration laws are we are able to question them and ask for change. Thanks to many protest done all over the State of Washington the dream act passed in the state of Washington. Jay Inslee signed the bill and said “Looking into their eyes, so full of ambition and eagerness and energy, I thought, ‘How could we possibly say no to these young people?’”. “Undocumented students are no different than their classmates. They grow up in the same towns, attend the same schools and share the same dreams — and they deserve an equal chance to go to college and start successful careers in this country.”- Patty Murray. Inslee and Murray saw what many don’t see and gave many students a slight a hope for a better future. This D.R.E.A.M (Development, relief, and education for alien minors) act will allow students to file for state grants. It’s a small step but with perseverance they were able to achieve this.

While doing this research paper I was able to learn many new things. Things I would have never imagined to have been true and I gained such an appreciation for my people. So many people put down the Chicano/a population and make them seem as less of people than everyone else. However I don’t see them as any less than anyone else, I actually hold them above everyone else. They live in fear everyday yet they still remain here for a better life. They work long hours in horrible working conditions to just get by, they must learn a completely different language and they must accommodate themselves to the new life they live. If these aren’t reasons enough to admire them, then I’m not sure what is. Our immigration laws are broken and who knows how long it will take to see a change. I don’t think that the undocumented individuals will ever lose hope, and I don’t think they should ever lose hope. Little by little they are making a difference and we have come a long ways. Deportations will always be happening and will always be a

reason families are separated. However as tough as it may seem you must turn it into a positive thing. Don't allow yourself to fit into the stereotype of the Chicano/a who doesn't care about an education, prove everyone wrong and make your parents proud. I'm proof that through hardships an struggle you can achieve this, with either parents, one parent or none.

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