

Dear Editor,

I think candidate Mike Kopp's recent article on immigration policy charts a bold path to help resolve the illegal immigration problem, but I still have some concerns. While Mr. Kopp does call for stiff penalties against businesses that hire illegal aliens, he still fails to detail a plan for maintaining a migrate workforce that has long become a legitimate component of the American economy. Unless we reform weak labor laws and raise the minimum wage this issue will never go away. Illegal or not, undocumented workers have been welcomed by American businesses with Government acquiescence for years. A tradition of extraordinary profit margins at the top fuel the exploitation of workers.

We should freely allow employees to form and join unions and hold companies like Walmart accountable. There is simply no reason why many large companies cannot raise standards with fairer wages and benefits. We should steadily reverse the roll back of labor laws with higher expectations and democratic principles in the workplace. This would help bring some balance to the illegal immigration problem which is an employee rights issue.

I think Mr. Kopp's plan of enforcement also "grows government" as much as any democratic plan. More laws to intrercede on this issue will require adequate government funding to get the job done. I work at the Federal prison in Jefferson County. Our agency, like many others, has seen our funding cut to dangerous low levels.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Allport  
Littleton