

## Emma Medeiros: In favor of LD 2106

### Reasons for Fear of Immigrants

**FEAR 1:** Immigrants take jobs away from and drive down the wages of Americans.

**FACT 1:** The American Immigration Council

(<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/report/new-american-fortune-500-2023/>) found that nearly 45% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children (called “New American Fortune 500 companies), bringing in more than \$8 trillion in revenue and employing 14.8 million people.

**FEAR 2:** Immigrants strain public resources like schools, hospitals, and government assistance programs.

**FACT 2:** The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

(<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU01/20250122/117827/HHRG-119-JU01-20250122-SD003.pdf>) found that, for every 1 million undocumented immigrants, public services receive \$8.9 billion in additional tax revenue. On the flip side, for every 1 million undocumented immigrants who are deported, public services stand to lose \$8.9 billion in tax revenue.

Also, more than a third of the tax dollars paid by undocumented immigrants are toward payroll taxes dedicated to funding programs – like Social Security and Medicare – that these workers are barred from accessing. They are also often barred from receiving meaningful tax credits like the Child Tax Credit or Earned Income Tax Credit.

**FEAR 3:** Immigrants commit more crime than citizens, especially drug trafficking, rape, and murder.

**FACT 3:** The National Bureau Of Economic Research found that since the 1960s, immigrants are 60% less likely to be incarcerated than U.S.-born people.

(<https://www.npr.org/2024/03/08/1237103158/immigrants-are-less-likely-to-commit-crimes-than-us-born-americans-studies-find>)

## **Let's Do This Instead!**

1. Americanize immigrants so it will not be us vs them with programs that teach them how to embrace American culture while still keeping the best of their own traditions, as well as helping them learn English in a reasonable amount of time.
2. Reduce the number of ICE agents and have them focus solely on KNOWN/PROVEN criminal immigrants (working with local law enforcement who know them better).
3. Use the others to beef up staff at USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services) and speed up the waiting process for citizenship. This will provide more people to investigate immigrants and reduce the chance of criminals coming in.

**By Stacy L. Sanchez**

As I saw a map  
and stared at  
each of the fifty states -  
either red or blue,  
I couldn't help thinking  
chances are  
God would love  
to reach down and  
swirl the  
red and blue  
together -  
creating purple.

Not purple  
as it relates  
to any human  
meanings given  
to purple,  
but purple in  
the way  
that once

blue and red  
are completely mixed,  
the differences in color  
combine  
to make a  
beautiful new color,  
distinctly its own.

America -  
somehow we  
have lost  
what makes  
us distinctly  
American.

Our push toward  
either red or  
either blue  
has left us  
color blind  
to the possibility  
of joining together  
to form a more  
perfect union.

And while  
we are all  
so uniquely different  
as Americans,  
we the people  
are all just that -  
people.

Our goals are  
the same  
from sea to shining sea:  
freedom,  
equality,  
the pursuit of happiness,  
safety for our family,  
a good life.

It really is  
just that simple.

A place to call home.  
Food on our table.  
Using our gifts and talents  
to make our world better -  
for the good of all.

This is America.

Anything else  
is simply  
a distraction.

Neighbor helping neighbor.

You and me  
living beside each other,  
working beside each other,  
building beside each other,  
dreaming beside each other.

You and me  
taking care of each other,  
helping each other,  
supporting each other,  
instructing each other,  
comforting each other,  
understanding each other.

You and me  
offering each other  
the space  
to believe  
what we feel  
in our heart  
is ours to believe.

It's the Jesus way.

Jesus never forced  
His way on others.

He simply  
taught truth,  
extended the  
invitation to  
"Follow me",  
extended grace  
and loved.

Red and blue  
swirled together.

What a country  
that would be. ~♥