

July 2, 2018

There has been a lot of reporting, lately, regarding the immigration issue and the separation of children from their undocumented parents or those posing as their parents who illegally enter our country. Granted the visual of such a thing is unsettling but their parents made a conscious choice to break our laws and attempt illegal entry rather than go to a port of entry and seek entry lawfully.

So I wanted to recognize those who each year do just that, seek legal entry. These people have gone through the process, which can take a few years on average to become naturalized citizens. Maintaining jobs, going to school, raising families and doing the work required to become United States citizens.

If you check the United States Citizen and Immigration Services web site you will find that between the years 2001 and 2016, on average, 750,000 to 1 million people are granted naturalized citizenship each year. So in that 15 year period of time approximately 11 million immigrants became citizens afforded the same constitutional rights as those born in this country.

Those who have gone through the process will tell you that it is a lengthy process but they will also state that it was well worth it and are proud to pledge allegiance to their new country the United States of America.

But these people are often overlooked in this immigration debate. Instead our news agencies, politicians and pundits want

to divert our attention to the illegal immigrant issue, due to the passion it creates in those who would be sympathetic to the plight of those caught up in the immigration battle.

It seems as though those attempting illegal entry have become pawns and are being used for a means that may not always be clear to the average citizen. It is unfortunate and frustrating to see such families separated, but again doesn't our sovereignty as a nation mean something. Would we allow someone we do not know enter our homes and take advantage of all that we have, I don't think so.

This issue needs to be resolved by an act of congress, the body of our government responsible for making the laws. In the past presidents have dealt with such things through executive orders, which can be rescinded by the next president to take office. Congress has refused to deal with the immigration issue, which places those who enter illegally in jeopardy. This issue should have been resolved long ago by those we voted into office, our representatives.

It is a systemic problem, our lack of action by congress, they would rather fight over the miniscule along party lines rather than come together and solve the immigration issue. Both parties Republicans and Democrats are culpable and need to learn the art of compromise, which seem to elude them at every turn.

I for one want to see a comprehensive, lasting fix to the immigration problem and believe congress needs to act and not

leave it up to another executive order buy this or future presidents. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment.