

Letter to Our Representatives

Cowdrey

In places like Puerto Rico, Black Puerto Ricans are considered a minority and have experienced significant discrimination and mistreatment. This experience is worth considering. Even though Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, the experience can provide insight into how racism is experienced within the United States.

It should also be recognized that census data does not necessarily capture every person or every community equally. There are many diverse people who are included in census data and others who may not be included. Demographic data is therefore influenced by the people who are willing or unwilling to complete the survey.

Furthermore, race data has not always been fully collected or accurately represented as it pertains to crime. For example, I collected data regarding a minority White race, Acadians, and found that Acadians account for approximately 0.2%–0.5% of crime while also representing a very small portion of the American population. Yet radical activists often use generalized “White crime” data to perpetuate the claim that White Europeans commit the most crime. This is a significant distortion of reality and does not accurately reflect the experiences of many distinct ethnic and historical communities.

There are therefore two overlapping issues occurring at the same time. One involves racism and discrimination among different racial and ethnic groups, including discrimination directed toward communities that may be classified as White despite having distinct histories and identities. The second involves concerns about the accuracy, completeness, and interpretation of demographic and crime data.

The differences between demographic data and the experiences of individual communities can be shocking and very concerning, particularly for Native American populations and longstanding American families whose communities have existed in the United States for generations. Rapid demographic and political changes, combined with political narratives that assign collective blame to racial categories, can create fear and social instability. While these changes may not be as noticeable in some communities, such as those in New England, their effects can be seen throughout the United States.

Members of these communities have spoken out, and there has been significant public concern regarding mass immigration and its effects on communities, population patterns, and political representation. These changes can place substantial pressure on local communities, particularly when combined with issues involving irregular migration, drug trafficking, modern-day ghettoization, racism and discrimination, homelessness, encampments, organized crime, and fourth-generation conflict.

There are also many modern concerns regarding cases in which Mexican political figures have had their visas revoked because of ties to aggressive and violent cartels. This experience demonstrates that transnational criminal organizations and political influence

should not be treated as small or isolated issues. They can represent significant national-security concerns and can have severe consequences for American communities.

At this stage, my greatest recommendation is that we become protective of the American people, particularly longstanding American families and communities that may be disproportionately affected by rapid social and demographic changes. This includes historically established Black American families, Native American families, and historically established White minority communities. Mexican-American families with longstanding heritage and ancestry along the U.S.-Mexico border have also been greatly affected by these changes and deserve consideration and protection.

I also have concerns about mass instrumental migration and political movements that may seek to use migration as a means of influencing American institutions or political outcomes. These experiences should be examined with depth and concern. For example, the Hispanic Confederation is worth noting, as it has had a profoundly negative impact on Americans in recent years.

The experience can resemble forms of hybrid, proxy, and irregular warfare when criminal organizations, political movements, foreign influence, disinformation, and social instability overlap. We need to protect our home front. This is not an issue on which I believe Americans should align themselves indiscriminately with foreign political movements or radical domestic organizations. Doing so can place the American people at risk.

Addressing these challenges depends upon cooperation. Ensuring the safety of American families means working together to protect the country without going backward, without undoing important civil-rights accomplishments, and without placing the American people in harm's way because of radical or extreme political ideology. Mass instrumental migration hurts Americans; it can bring crime, suffering, and substantial costs. The cost can be measured in life, liberty, and livelihood. The American dream belongs to Americans.

I say this as a lifelong Democrat. Today, however, I believe the Democratic Party has changed significantly, and I am concerned that this party has become an anti-American political war front rather than a political party. I could never vote Democrat today if it means placing American families in danger. Our safety is not a political debate. It never was. They tried to make it one.

I urge your office to consider what it means today to be a moderate and a conservative, positions that several years ago might have been considered a traditional "Democrat" political perspective. I urge your office to support appropriate national-security measures and to stand up for American families. We must ensure that our country remains balanced and that the safety of the American people is never placed last because of radical or extremist ideology. Please, let's consider reality for what it is, not just what we have been told.

National security and civil rights should not be opposing principles. We can protect American families while preserving the constitutional rights and civil-rights accomplishments that have made our country stronger. Together, let's stay protective, stay safe, and stay strong.

Response:

Sixty-three years ago today – August 28, 1963 – A. Philip Randolph stood before the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the march he organized, and told the crowd: “We are the advanced guard of a massive, moral revolution for jobs and freedom.” The march was the culmination of Randolph’s life’s work to advance civil rights through economic empowerment – and that work began with immigration policy. On August 25, 1925, one year after Congress passed the immigration reductions Randolph championed, he leveraged the tight labor market to found the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first major Black labor union. W.E.B. DuBois, writing in 1929, credited those immigration cuts directly with the advancement of Black economic interests: “The stopping of the importing of cheap White labor on any terms has been the economic salvation of American Black labor.”

Tight immigration policies helped build a middle-class nation and secure equal rights. Mass immigration returned American workers to the back of the hiring line.

Congress reversed course on August 25, 1965, when the House passed the Hart-Celler Act – the ink barely dry on civil rights legislation – and opened the door to an immigration wave unprecedented in modern American history. Decades of declining inequality, an expanding middle class, and shrinking racial wealth gaps were halted and reversed. That wave continues to this day. We don’t have to accept it. Bills now before the House and Senate would reclaim the immigration policy that put American workers first.

Join the citizen lobby. Let’s move these bills.