

Letter to Representatives

6.25.26

Good morning,

I hope all is very well today. I understand that you want opportunities to be available to everyone who wishes to come to America. As someone with American ancestry who has always supported immigrants, I can appreciate the compassion behind your perspective. However, as a Native American who is witnessing significant demographic and cultural changes within my own nation, I now see the issue differently.

Many communities that have been home to American families for generations are changing rapidly. To many Americans, these changes feel less like growth and more like the erosion of our shared culture, history, and identity. While others may view immigration primarily through the lens of opportunity, many Americans are increasingly concerned about the impact on their communities, resources, and quality of life. Mass immigration is wounding, painful, and distressing to the American spirit.

Americans today are facing numerous challenges, housing shortages, homelessness, rising costs of living, crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and growing social division. Many Americans feel that these issues should be addressed first before expanding immigration policies or creating additional pathways for new arrivals.

Many of us grew up in a time when we could camp, travel, and spend time outdoors safely without constantly thinking about personal safety. Today, we often feel fear, even in daylight. These fears stem from violent crime, trafficking, organized territorial movements, and general social instability. They are real concerns for many Americans and deserve our careful and grounded consideration.

There is also a growing feeling among many citizens that their concerns are dismissed or gaslit, a form of abuse in which the victim's voice is not heard. In the case I am speaking of, it is the American voice that is often overshadowed today. Americans see increasing demands on public resources while struggling to meet their own needs. They wonder why the nation is being encouraged to absorb more people when so many existing problems remain unresolved. This is the voice of our people who feel unheard and overburdened. On the political front, Americans are exhausted.

The world is experiencing significant conflict, war, and instability. America faces both foreign and domestic challenges, threats, and terrorism. Rather than expansion, this is a time for caution, reflection, and careful consideration. We want our elected representatives to thoroughly assess the long-term consequences of immigration policy before making decisions that will permanently and irreversibly alter future generations.

Immigration is valuable, and of course there should be opportunities for lawful immigration to America. However, American safety, stability, and well-being should be ensured for its own citizens first and foremost. We must address homelessness, which, where ignored, can

resemble a form of wartime ghettoization. Our primary aim should be to reduce crime, combat trafficking and smuggling, secure our borders; and strengthen and fortify our communities. Once these goals are being met, we can have a far more productive conversation about future immigration levels and policies.

Citizenship is a privilege, but it should not be afforded at the cost of American freedoms, liberties, culture, heritage, or above all, the American spirit. It should not come at the expense of civil discourse, respect for the rule of law, or national unity. Nor should it be accompanied by racism, hate speech, territorial disputes, violent crime, or the display of foreign national flags on United States territory. It should be granted thoughtfully and with careful consideration for both the newcomers seeking opportunity and the citizens who already call this nation home. We want our relationship with newcomers to be healthy, not a constant uphill political battle that drains our time, energy, and resources. That is neither welcome, needed, nor positive. Rather, it mirrors wartime attrition.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider your position and to weigh the concerns of Americans who feel that the current burden has become too great.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dannielle Courchene-Cowdrey