

# 37,000,000

Immigration was created before Ellis Island and our founding fathers. One could say it started during the age of exploration when hundreds of eager explorers set out in voyages to discover the world. The voyages brought many discoveries, including the Nation we now call home, and thousands of new raw materials. This immigration has always been seen as a world-changing movement, yet when we hear that word today, our attention is set on illegal immigrants, most of which come from Hispanic backgrounds.

37,000,000 people immigrate to the U.S every year. Most of which come from our neighboring country, Mexico. They all share the common goal of obtaining a better future. They journey through a hell consisting of a desert or a dangerous river, all to pursue the American Dream. Once they arrive, however, they don't escape the horrors of the world, just simply enter a different challenge. Immigrants are mistreated and oppressed on a daily basis it almost becomes routine to them. They can not work to provide for their families nor further their education all because their legal status deprives them of those opportunities. Although immigration comes in millions, immigrants make up only about 13% (Jie Zong) of the American population, making it difficult to speak up about their oppression. Current political disputes over the DACA act emphasize just how powerless immigrants feel when it comes to advocating for their rights. Although the act might seem insignificant to some, it is a blessing to people like my brother: a hardworking, and very passionate DACA dreamer.

In the midst of our current society, these views have been instilled by current political figures or officials of high authority. Many claims have been made regarding the effect of

immigrants. They have been often called “rapist”, “criminal, and/or “drug dealers”. But in reality, there is not yet any factual immigrant crime rates. It has not yet been proven that illegal immigrants commit more crimes than native-born citizens. Most immigrants just want to better themselves as individuals and create a much more successful future than the one they would have had from the country they fled. As a teen in the 21st Century, my focused should not be waking up with a pit in my stomach, not knowing if my parents will be deported that day

37,000,000. Although I am a native-born American citizen, my family and friends are all included in that statistic. I have chosen a career path that will help me provide a voice for my people and help bring the hatred they face to an end. I will strive to break them out of the golden cage they feel trapped in that they know as mainstream America. Because although it is golden, it does not stop being a cage.

#### Works Cited

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