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The Big Lie:

Immigrants are an Economic Burden to the Country

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Donald Trump won the 2024 presidential election in large part by scapegoating immigrants and telling some big lies about them. One big lie is that immigrants are an economic burden to the country. Nothing further from the truth. This lie is being used to justify the massive immigrant deportations taking place in our country right now.

Although a city like NYC can in the short term get overwhelmed by a large influx of immigrants (Governors DeSantis & Abbot dumped thousands of migrants in NYC to create chaos), in the longer-term immigrants tend to migrate where labor is needed.

JD Vance accused immigrants during the campaign of being responsible for the high price of housing. That's part of the big lie too. Immigrants cannot afford the type of housing that the middle-class native-born demands. They often live in lower-quality dwellings that they rent. Also, they help build a lot of houses. Immigrants represent 33% of all construction workers.

In the longer term, the economic benefits of immigrants outweigh the costs. (1) *They contribute to our economic growth.* The recent surge in immigration is projected to expand our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$7.3 trillion in 2034. (2) Undocumented immigrants paid \$93 billion in 2023 in federal, state, and local taxes. Also, they *contribute, via their payroll taxes, to improving the solvency of our Medicare and Social Security Funds.* In 2023, undocumented immigrants alone contributed \$6.2 billion to the Medicare Fund and \$23 billion to the Social Security Fund—and they will never get a dollar back! (3) *They help reduce inflation by alleviating labor shortages.* (4) *They create businesses (and jobs) at a higher rate than the native-born population.* One quarter of American entrepreneurs are immigrants or children of immigrants.

Trump's massive deportations are already adversely affecting the economy. The reduction in the immigrant labor force is creating labor shortages in agriculture, construction, retail, and people-care industries (medical care, senior care, day care). These shortages limit production, which slows economic growth and increases labor costs, resulting in inflationary pressures.

The precise impact of deportations on the Social Security and Medicare funds is difficult to establish right now, but The [Penn Wharton Budget Model](#) estimated that a mass deportation plan could cause Social Security's trust fund to be depleted six months earlier.