

OPINION > CONGRESS BLOG

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

Immigrants are key to addressing America's labor shortage, lowering inflation, and growing our economy

BY REBECCA SHI, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 08/29/22 11:00 AM ET

Share

Tweet

...

More



Thinkstock



every unemployed American found a job, we would still have five million jobs unfilled. But for America's broken immigration system, immigrant workers could fill many of these jobs — and it is U.S.-born citizens who would benefit the most from their contributions.

ADVERTISEMENT



For consumers, the labor shortage means empty shelves, higher prices, and long waiting times, whether for a restaurant table or in the emergency room. The labor shortage is especially acute in services we need the most. As students return to school, the National Education Association estimates a shortage of 300,000 teachers and support staff across the nation. In a recent [survey](#), 90 percent of nurses were considering leaving the profession in the next year. Nearly 1 million new [STEM jobs](#) will come open over the next decade, but it's not clear that the U.S. educational system is preparing students to fill those jobs.

In the agricultural sector, the labor shortage is causing sticker shock at the grocery store, with some families skipping meals due to inflation. Food prices are [10 percent higher](#) than last year — the biggest increase in 40 years. At this year's Labor Day barbecue, hamburgers will cost 36 percent [more than last year](#), pork and beans will cost 33 percent more, and homemade potato salad 19 percent more, according to data from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Common sense immigration reforms would bring food prices down and address supply ✕

negotiations and pass their own bill before the end of the year.



Here's What A Walk-In Shower Should Cost

LongShowers.com - Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

A recent [study](#) by Texas A&M International University shows how much good fixing the farm labor shortage would do for farmers, workers, and American families who need nutritious meals at affordable prices. Researchers found that more migrant and H-2A guest workers are associated with lower inflation and lower food prices, including for milk, eggs, meat, fruits, and vegetables. More migrant and H-2A guest workers are also correlated with higher wages for American workers and lower unemployment.

[UFOs from outer space — science or science fiction?](#)

[How China's Arctic plans went awry](#)

The CHIPS and Science Act, which passed this summer with bipartisan support, shows that Democrats and Republicans can still get together and solve some of America's biggest issues. This bill will help the U.S. regain a leading position in semiconductor chip manufacturing, although policymakers missed the opportunity to include immigration



challenges. The key to meeting those challenges depends on reaffirming America's character as a beacon of hope, freedom, and opportunity for all.

ADVERTISEMENT

Rebecca Shi is the Executive Director of the American Business Immigration Coalition and its c4 arm ABIC Action, a diverse, bipartisan group of over 1,200 CEOs, employers, and trade associations promoting common sense immigration solutions.

TAGS MIKE CRAPO

Copyright 2023 Nexstar Media Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

SHARE

TWEET



MORE

SPONSORED CONTENT

[Privacy Policy](#)

Norah O'Donnell Is Married To This Beauty

Best Of Senior | Sponsored



[Renovo Baths](#) | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Malden College Named Worst College In US

[Wanderoam](#) | Sponsored

Massachusetts Passes New Law For Homes

[Solar Panel Quotes](#) | Sponsored

NHL Player's Wife Is Hands Down The Most Beautiful Woman In The World

[UnPasted](#) | Sponsored

Heart Surgeon Begg Americans: "Stop Doing This To Your Blueberries"

[Gundry MD](#) | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

"One drop makes me so productive, I get a days work done in 3 hours"

[Health Headlines](#) | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

More Congress Blog News





Congress poised to mandate continued sales of leaded aviation gasoline

CONGRESS BLOG / 18 HOURS AGO



Protecting the health of Americans and their pocketbooks

CONGRESS BLOG / 23 HOURS AGO



3 tasks for Congress's to do list on AI

CONGRESS BLOG / 2 DAYS AGO



Why we need to choose school choice

CONGRESS BLOG / 2 DAYS AGO

[See All](#)





Rising: August 22, 2023

RISING / 24 HOURS AGO





Rising: August 18, 2023

RISING / 5 DAYS AGO

[See all Hill.TV](#)

[See all Video](#)

Top Stories





Trump infighting risks rise as allies face legal bills, cash crunch

COURT BATTLES / 5 HOURS AGO



Trump, Tucker Carlson to release interview as debate begins on Fox News

CAMPAIGN / 3 HOURS AGO



Meadows was 'ringleader' in effort to overturn 2020 election, Pence adviser says

COURT BATTLES / 2 HOURS AGO

[See All](#)





Most Popular

- 1 Maui residents who disobeyed barricade survived fires: AP**

- 2 US citizens urged to leave Belarus immediately**

- 3 Trump, Tucker Carlson to release interview as debate begins on Fox News**

- 4 Trump infighting risks rise as allies face legal bills, cash crunch**

- 5 Meadows was 'ringleader' in effort to overturn 2020 election, Pence adviser ...**





What Do You Think?



Do you think former President Trump should or should not be disqualified from serving as president in the future under the 14th Amendment?

- Definitely should be
- Possibly should be
- Definitely should not be
- Other / No opinion

* By clicking "NEXT" you agree to the following: We use cookies to collect your survey answers for market research and tailored advertising. If you would like to continue with this survey, please read and agree to the [CivicScience Privacy Policy and Terms of Service](#)

NEXT *



**DON'T MISS A BRIEF.
SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY EMAIL.**

Your Email

Send

**THE
HILL**



Contributors

SUBMIT OPINION CONTENT

Follow Us On



Get the App



PRIVACY POLICY

TERMS & CONDITIONS

CONTACT

ADVERTISE

SUBSCRIBE TO PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

NEWSNATION

BESTREVIEWS

NEXSTAR DIGITAL

JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY

DO NOT SELL OR SHARE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION

THE HILL 1625 K STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON DC 20006 | 202-628-8500 TEL | 202-628-8503 FAX

© 1998 - 2023 NEXSTAR MEDIA INC. | ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

