

sleepwear and to educate parents regarding the dangers inherent in untreated sleepwear worn by many children.

Burn Awareness Week can help foster awareness among parents and protect young children from the horrors of burn injuries. It also focuses additional attention on the research and treatment of those burn injuries that do occur. Mr. Speaker, charitable organizations such as Shriners Hospitals deserve great credit for their outstanding work on behalf of our Nation's children. I rise today to recognize and support the efforts of the Shriners Hospital in Boston and the importance of Burn Awareness Week.

HONORING MR. LONNIE EUGENE ROARK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my uncle, Lonnie Eugene Roark, on his 80th birthday.

My uncle was born on February 11, 1922 in Missouri. He was raised in Oklahoma and lived most of his life in La Puente, California.

My uncle is an excellent father to his three children and two grandchildren and serves as a role model for many others. When his daughter's husband passed away, he assumed the role as father figure to his granddaughter. He would often take her lunch to school, school functions, and doctor visits. But most importantly, by taking on a paternal role, he filled that empty void in her life.

His acts of kindness and dedication have inspired many who know him. It is a true blessing to have been raised with a role model like him. It is not every day that we encounter a person filled with such generosity and love.

Today, I want to wish him a happy birthday and because I am especially grateful to be celebrating his 80th birthday because as he grows older, I realize how precious his life is and how he has been a great source of strength and support for our family. I, like many people who know him, admire him and love him dearly.

CHICAGO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight a recently released study entitled: "Chicago's Undocumented Immigrants: An Analysis of Wages, Working Conditions, and Economic Contributions." This report details the importance of the undocumented immigrant labor force to the local economy and the poor working conditions that many endure. I have included a Washington Post article that appeared on February 10, 2001 and the Executive Summary from the study, which underscores some of the study's most significant findings.

This study was carried out during the 3rd quarter of 2001 through 38 community based

organizations, community colleges, social service providers, and churches. In total, over 1,600 immigrants were surveyed in the Chicago area. The results revealed that the estimated 220,000 undocumented immigrants in the Chicago area contribute close to \$5.5 billion to the local economy. Furthermore, undocumented immigrants create more than 31,000 jobs, make up about 5% of the labor force, and 7 out of 10 or 70% pay income taxes through payroll deductions. The overall impact on the economy is dramatic considering immigrants without legal documentation earn anywhere from 22–36% less than those here legally.

This study provides a glimpse into the urban picture of the enormous contributions undocumented immigrants provide to our economy and the deplorable conditions under which they are subjected to work. With close to 6 million undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States, the potential impact on the national economy and the potential to improve the lives of this population through a legalization program are immeasurable, but they all point in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to look through this study and see for themselves.

[From The Washington Post Feb. 10, 2002]

CHICAGO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

(By Robert E. Pierre)

The push for the legalization of undocumented immigrants was put on the back burner after September's terrorist attacks. But a study released last week reopens the question of what they contribute to the U.S. economy.

The estimated 220,000 undocumented immigrants in the Chicago area add nearly \$ 5.5 billion to the local economy, creating more than 31,000 jobs, according to the study by the Center for Urban Economic Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. These undocumented workers make up about 5 percent of the labor market, the survey indicated—and seven out of 10 pay income taxes through payroll deductions taken by their employers.

Still, the survey of 1,653 legal and illegal immigrants living in Chicago and five surrounding counties also found that those without legal documentation generally are paid less than those who are legally in the United States. That's true regardless of their education, skill level and English proficiency, particularly among immigrants from Latin America.

"You can have two workers with exactly the same characteristics, and one will earn 20 to 25 percent less because they don't have legal status," said Chirag Mehta, a UIC research associate.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights urged amnesty for such immigrants: "Such findings confirm the importance of a new legalization program and the positive impact that undocumented immigrant labor has on the United States," it said in a statement.

[From the University of Illinois at Chicago]

CHICAGO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS: AN ANALYSIS OF WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Undocumented immigrants are strongly committed to working in the United States and they make significant contributions to the economy. Undocumented workers account for approximately 5% of the Chicago metro area labor market and represent a growing segment of the low-wage workforce.

Undocumented immigrants earn low wages, work in unsafe conditions, and have low rates of health insurance. Juxtaposed against these harsh realities is the fact that the undocumented workforce supports thousands of other workers in the local economy, pays taxes, and demonstrates little reliance on government benefits.

This study reports the findings of a survey of 1,653 documented and undocumented immigrants living in the Chicago metro area. Using a standardized questionnaire, immigrants were asked a series of questions regarding their employment status, wages and working conditions, access to health care, utilization of government safety-net programs, demographic characteristics, and legal status. The key questions that guided this analysis include:

To what extent does working without legal status increase the likelihood of unemployment and depress workers' wages?

To what extent do undocumented immigrants more often work in unsafe working conditions?

To what extent do undocumented immigrants utilize government safety-net programs?

What economic contributions do undocumented immigrants make to the local economy?

KEY FINDINGS

1. Labor force participation and unemployment

Undocumented immigrants seek work at extremely high rates (91%), and most do not experience unemployment at rates that are significantly different than the Chicago metro area average. However, undocumented Latin-American women experience unemployment rates that approach 20%, five times as high as the average unemployment rate for the remainder of the undocumented workforce. Factors that significantly increase the likelihood of unemployment include:

- the combined effect of undocumented status, being female, and being of Latin-American origin;
- the lack of dependent care; and
- obtaining work through temporary staffing agencies.

2. Wages

Most undocumented immigrants are employed in low-wage service and laborer occupations. Approximately, 30% of undocumented immigrants work in restaurant-related, hand-packing and assembly, and janitorial and cleaning jobs. The average (median) hourly wage earned by undocumented workers is \$7.00.

All else being equal, working without legal status, in combination with the effects of national origin and gender, induces significant wage penalties for Latin Americans:

Undocumented Latin-American men and women experience statistically significant wage penalties—22% and 36%—respectively—after controlling for length of U.S. work experience, education, English proficiency, and occupation.

Eastern-European women experience wage penalties as a result of their national origin and gender, but they do not experience penalties associated with their legal status.

Eastern-European men, documented Latin-American men, and immigrants from Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe do not experience wage penalties associated with their national origin, gender, or legal status.

Factors including English proficiency, unionization, and obtaining employment in higher-paying occupations help undocumented Latin Americans earn higher wages. Educational attainment, however, does not have significant positive wage effects for undocumented Latin Americans. Importantly,

attaining additional levels of education, having English proficiency, and accumulating additional years of U.S. residency do not neutralize the negative wage effect of working without legal status.

All else being equal, securing work in higher-wage occupational categories induces significant wage advantages to undocumented workers and neutralizes the negative wage effect of working without legal status. However, undocumented status limits Latin Americans' access to higher-wage white-collar jobs.

3. Working conditions

Undocumented immigrants report working in unsafe conditions at considerably higher rates relative to immigrants with legal status. Moreover, immigrants without legal status also report alleged wage and hour violations at considerably higher rates relative to documented workers.

Lack of access to health insurance is a significant problem for undocumented workers. Only 25 percent of undocumented workers currently employed are covered by health insurance. The most commonly reported reason for not having health insurance among immigrants who are currently employed is that their employer did not offer health insurance or the employer-sponsored plan was too expensive to access.

4. Use of government benefits and economic contributions

The vast majority of undocumented immigrants reported that they, and adults in their household, do not receive benefits under government safety-net programs, despite their low earnings. Benefit utilization is comparably low among immigrants with legal status.

The consumer expenditures of undocumented immigrants in the Chicago metro area generate more than 31,000 jobs in the local economy and add \$5.45 billion annually to the gross regional product. While exact tax contributions were not calculated, the survey data indicates that approximately 70 percent of undocumented workers pay taxes.

The results of this study strongly suggest that attaining legal status would improve the wages and working conditions of undocumented immigrants. Estimating the size of any wage increase and subsequent wage effects as a result of any changes to federal immigration policy, such as legalization or guest-worker programs, is beyond the scope of this study.

The survey was carried out during the 3rd quarter 2001 through 38 community-based organizations, community colleges, social service providers, and churches. This study was made possible by a grant from the Woods Fund of Chicago.

TRAGEDY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a poem written by Ariel Mason, a fifth grader in my Congressional District. Written only a few days after the tragic events of September 11th, Ariel's poem illustrates the depth and immediacy to which the youth of our Nation was touched and changed by that infamous day.

Tragedy

The skies have fallen upon our nation
The horror is overwhelming
We did nothing to deserve such cruelty

Disaster

So many innocent lives lost

To show the shadows of cackling evil

The emptiness is immense

Loyalty

Through the anguishing troubles I will

Stand proudly by the sides of my fellow Americans

And help as I may

To pull this country together once more

Pain

Sheer, pulsing pain

Coursing through the veins of victims

Both physically and mentally wounded

Troubles

Broken hearts weep sullenly

Filled with the shattered endearment

Of their lost companions

Killed by the dark-doings of murderous

Men, so like us, but gruesomely different

Mourning

America's tallest towers

So proud and free

Lost to deathly claws of our invisible attackers

Emotion

We must fight for our proof of innocence

Our dedication to our blessed land

Forever great, throughout all of eternity

Questions

Why? Who could be so terrible?

Only a luring shadow, cold and black as night

Holds our answers

Though stubbornly refusing to share them

Love

Is all we can give

To help our nation through such troubles

To be the best we can

Life ends here for many

And we cherish memories with them

But for us life will continue

Though we carry this ugly burden of a memory

Forever more

Peace

Is our solitary hope

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ariel Mason for so bravely and honestly writing this poem. As we begin to comprehend the extent to which the terrorist attacks of September 11th have affected us personally, we should look to expressions of emotion like Ariel's to help work through our own pain and confusion, and to remind us that in the face of adversity we as a country will persevere through this national tragedy.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month. As we honor the great culture and historic legacy that African-Americans have left to us and to future generations, I would like to recognize the oldest African-American church in Gary, Indiana—First Baptist. On Sunday, February 24, 2002, I will have the privilege and the honor to attend the worship service at First Baptist to show my respect for the spiritual foundation on which First Baptist was founded.

It was during the Industrial Revolution when smokestacks dotted the skies along the south-

ern coast of Lake Michigan that thousands of immigrants looking for a better life and a steady income migrated to Northwest Indiana. Many who came to Northwest Indiana, particularly Gary, were from the South. Several of the migrants who came to Gary brought with them deeply embedded religious beliefs, including a yearning for their own place of worship. This unwavering spiritual foundation led in 1908 to the creation of Gary's first African-American church, First Baptist.

In its earliest days, the first services were held in the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rankins, in Gary, yet baptisms were performed in Chicago. The need to establish a single spiritual home for its growing family of parishioners inspired the decision to purchase a vacant lot on Washington Street in downtown Gary.

In 1917, the church moved to 2101 Washington Street and began to expand its house of worship. The expansion project was completed in 1925. A year later First Baptist church achieved a milestone; they became the first African-American church in Gary to install a pipe organ. Through most of this period of unprecedented foundation and growth, Rev. Hawkins led and guided this congregation. In June of 1944, after 31 years of service, Rev. Hawkins delivered his last sermon, for his health was deteriorating. He died four years later. His successor, Reverend L.V. Booth, took over in July of the same year.

Under Rev. Booth's devout leadership, the number of parishioners continued to grow and the church began its second major expansion project: ten new lots were purchased along 21st Avenue near Harrison Street in 1949. In 1952, during the growth phase, Rev. Booth resigned after eight years of service. However, December of the same year brought forth a dedicated new pastor, Rev. Penn. During his 21-year tenure with First Baptist, he completed the second phase of the building expansion and held a groundbreaking ceremony on May 2, 1954 on 21st Avenue, with Rev. William Jernigan, president of the National Baptist Sunday School, in attendance.

In September of 1955, the parishioners marched from the building at 2101 Washington Street to their new house of worship and current location, 626 West 21st Avenue. In its new home, First Baptist entered an era of renewed community involvement. Under Rev. Penn's guidance, the number of worshippers grew from 1,200 members in 1955 to more than 1,900 in 1972.

In 1973, Rev. Penn resigned and gave his farewell sermon. Since that time, First Baptist has succeeded in its efforts to provide spiritual guidance for the Gary community under the direction of a number of religious leaders, including: Dr. Colvin Blanford; Rev. William Booth; the Rev. Allen Smith; and its current pastor, Rev. Bennie Henson, Sr.

A congregation founded in 1908 to meet the spiritual needs of the African-American community survives today as the city's oldest African-American church. In June of this year, First Baptist will celebrate its 94th anniversary. This is a testament to the positive will, dedication and fortitude of its past and present parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the great cultural and historic legacy of African-American heritage during this month, I ask that you and my other colleagues join me in commending the parishioners at First Baptist and all other outstanding African-American leaders for their