

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:

NEBRASKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STANCE IS A MAGNET FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS.

BACKGROUND. Unscrupulous businesses, in order to cut overhead costs, eagerly employ illegal aliens, paying them substandard wages with few benefits. These illegals take jobs from lawful Nebraska residents, who seek a fair wage to support their families. Illegal alien workers do not boost our NE economy with their paychecks; they send money orders to family or relatives in their home communities. Although there exists a worker shortage in NE for available jobs, forcing the able-bodied lounging on welfare to take available jobs would erase most of this shortage.

THE CHAMBER. The NE Chamber of Commerce is the latest business organization to join the crowd championing an illegal alien workforce. Brian Sloan, the Chamber leader, argues there is an 80,000 NE worker shortfall. The Chamber believes that we must absorb and amnesty illegals to fill our state workforce gaps and avoid economic decline. The Chamber is launching a major immigrant recruitment strategy that broadcasts state intent to become the most welcoming place in America for foreign-born residents. Such a campaign, the group said, could appeal to recent migrants and refugees, also immigrants living elsewhere in the U.S. The Chamber also will create a state welcoming advisory board and regional support teams, which will develop strategies to deliver key services to newcomers who do not speak English. The Chamber then would engage with our congressional delegation to push federal immigration changes, which would include additional work visas and a path to U.S. citizenship for illegal aliens already in Nebraska. The Chamber argues that workforce issues have caused more NE taxpayers to leave the state than have moved into it during the last decade. This drain actually caused by our high tax levels, which drive productive individuals from NE. Also championing this effort is the Omaha Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The Omaha Chamber of Commerce has embraced diversity and inclusion in its current 5-year economic development campaign. As part of that plan, the Chamber in the past year launched a program encouraging Omaha businesses to adopt inclusive hiring practices, especially for immigrants. The Chamber also established a new program that seeks to educate Omaha employers on the importance of diversity, setting a goal of helping 100 local firms adopt “best-in-the-nation” inclusive hiring and promotion practices. Under the Omaha Chamber CODE initiative, Commitment to Opportunity, Diversity and Equity, companies encouraged to implement a comprehensive diversity and inclusion strategy and to measure their success. The Chamber offers resources to assist them, including opportunities for their diverse employees to network with citywide resource groups.¹ The NE Chambers obviously want state and national legislation to clear a pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens residing in NE.

CHAMBER RALLY. On June 25, 2024, the NE Chamber Foundation held an event in Fremont, the NE Immigration & Workforce Summit. Also sponsoring this event were the Immigrant Legal Center and Refugee Empowerment Center, both known for defending illegal aliens. The object of this conference was to provide tools and information on how to harness the “power of diversity,” highlight the advantages of embracing immigrant inclusion, offer guidance on implementing inclusive policies and practices, and inform employers how to contact their local Chamber to support inclusive practices. One featured speaker was the leftist Nebraska Appleseed Immigrants and Communities Program Director. One participant declared that there is no other subset of available workers. He should visit his local welfare



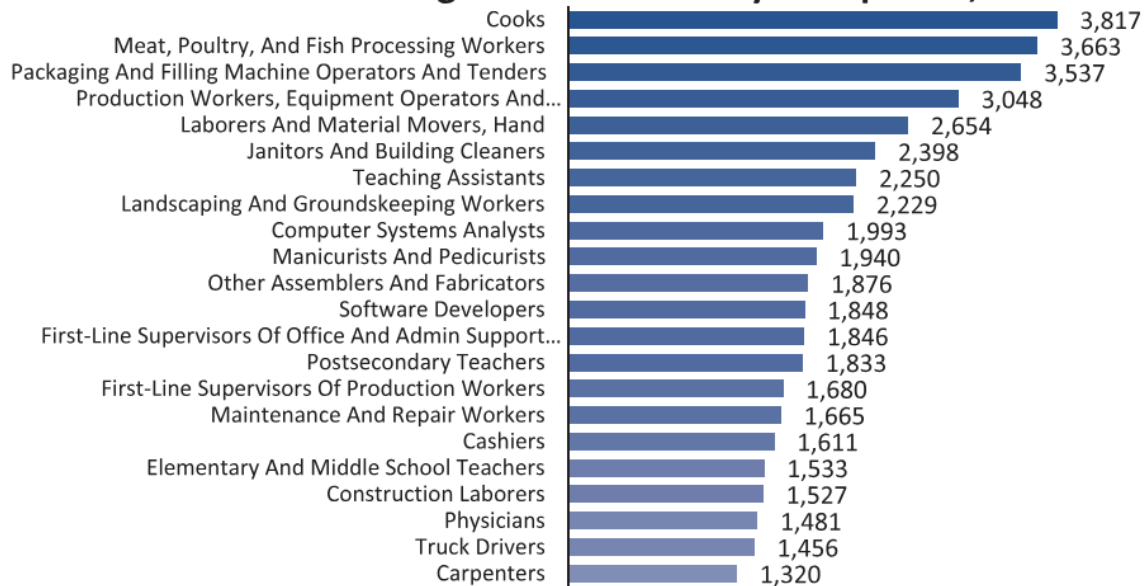
office to see how many available workers are eagerly obtaining their welfare benefits. Supporting this event was the leftist Open Sky Institute think tank. Saying immigration is a key to Nebraska growth, Open Sky accentuates the need for more inclusive and targeted policies to improve opportunities for immigrants who move to NE.² Open Sky touts drivers licenses for illegals. The leftist Heartland Workforce Solutions also is part of this effort. Working with the Chamber rally is OTOC, referred to by conservatives as Omaha Trotskyites and Other Communists. This group seeks to insert illegal aliens like the DACA group and those holding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in our job force with subsequent citizenship. About 2,000 non-citizen Salvadorans in NE fit this latter category. President Trump sought to end TPS for migrants from El Salvador.

¹ Henry Cordes. Aksarben Foundation. Workforce Challenges Prompt Business Leaders’ Call for A More Inclusive Nebraska, Feb. 10, 2023.

² Nebraska Examiner. Aaron Sanderford, State, local chambers press Nebraska delegation for smaller-scale immigration fixes, August 8, 2023.

STEALING OUR JOBS. The chart below will show you how many jobs filled by immigrants instead of lawful NE citizens. Three top temporary visa programs used in Nebraska are H1-B, H2-A, and H2-B visas, which open the way for workers ranging from highly-educated foreign professionals to agricultural and construction workers. Increasing federal quotas for these programs could help Nebraska companies utilize these programs even more, cites the NE Chamber. The Chamber also appears to support amnesty for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, many of whom have committed atrocious murders and other crimes against our citizens. About 3,000 DACA recipients reside in NE,³ some employed. Nebraska should act ready with improved affordable housing, child care, and other services to entice alien workers and families, states the Chamber leader, not mentioning the same for lawful employees. In March, 2022, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce joined a group of leftwing national leaders to form the Alliance for a New Immigration Consensus (ANIC). The coalition plans additional meetings in central and western Nebraska, so that the coalition gains more input from people across the state. ANIC aligns with OTOC priorities to convince Congress to make significant changes to our current immigration system, to pave the pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS aliens. OTOC convened a group of almost 60 Nebraska leaders at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce to initiate a statewide effort to lobby our congressional delegation and community leaders to recognize that illegal aliens are a solution to our labor shortage. Radical leftist Nebraskans for Peace leaders were active participants in this meeting. OTOC anticipates increasing this collaboration by conducting individual and small group meetings with Nebraskans across the state.⁴ Liberal nonprofit groups like Lutheran Family Services and Catholic Social Services have international contacts to link the state and its employers with potential immigrants.

Nebraska Foreign Born Workers by Occupation, 2022



Source: EL calculations based on US Census Bureau microdata

THE REACTION. State senators overwhelmingly voted this session against allowing DACA individuals to become employed law officers. The Chamber policies, if enacted, will create a burgeoning underclass in NE. Nebraska ranks #1 in the nation for the share of refugees resettled over the past decade compared to the overall state population, according to an analysis by the Immigration Research Initiative. We are already saturated with immigrants and refugees. Chamber leftists want Nebraskans to embrace illegal aliens as they supposedly enrich, sustain, and revitalize our communities, ignoring the horrific crimes and tax burdens these illegals impose on NE taxpayers. Waves of illegal aliens from Mexico and Central America and the resettlement of refugees from war-torn countries including Somalia, Sudan, and Myanmar continue to take jobs at lower pay than lawful Nebraskans would earn. If the U.S., state, and local Chambers of Commerce were supporting American citizens, they would protect us from job-related felonies, including illegal alien identity theft, which accounts for 15% of total identity theft. They would demand that no taxpayer funds used to hire illegal aliens and a prohibition for illegal aliens working on federal, state, and local government contracts. They would prevent illegal alien

³ Nebraska Examiner, Cindy Gonzalez, [Nebraska urged to become ‘most welcoming place in America’ for immigrants](#), May 28, 2024.

⁴ Kathleen Grant & Jeanne Schuler, [Omaha Together One Community Leads Statewide Effort](#), undated.

gang members from getting jobs, often using false documents and stolen identities. They would want salaries paid to their workers spent in their local communities to stimulate economic growth and development instead of being sent to foreign countries. They would teach Chamber members that it is not appropriate to shift the health care costs of illegal aliens to American workers with health insurance, fight to make sure that American schools not overwhelmed by the children of illegal aliens, and encourage all their members to verify the identity and eligibility to work in the U.S. of each new employee by signing up for E-Verify. In addition, the Chambers could encourage their members to participate in the IMAGE program in order to identify current employees who are using fraudulent documents and Social Security numbers that belong to American citizens. These programs would stop most employment-related felonies, protect jobs for American citizens, deny illegal alien gangbangers the cover of a regular job, stop taxpayer funds from subsidizing illegal



aliens, help stimulate the American economy through higher spending in local communities, contribute to controlling health care costs, and improve public education. Instead, Chambers fight hard in both the political arena and in the courts to protect member ability to hire illegal aliens who are committing felonies to obtain jobs. The Chambers openly attack E-Verify and give no encouragement to their members to enroll in the IMAGE program. The Chambers willingly sacrifice millions of American citizens who identities stolen by illegal aliens to get jobs. The Chambers care nought if American citizens suffer credit ruin, saddled with arrest records, denied unemployment insurance, their medical records compromised with life-threatening consequences, and pursuit by the IRS for income earned by illegal aliens using their

Social Security numbers, as long as their members can profit from illegal alien labor. A percentage of Nebraskans feel entitled and have lost their work ethic. Former Gov. Ricketts tried every option imaginable to force Nebraskans into jobs, including requiring people to confer with job coaches before seeking unemployment benefits, discuss specific employment goals, and enroll in an “individualized reemployment plan. “There’s going to be a lot of different things we’re going to have to do to reach each individual and, if they’re not working for whatever reason, get them back into the workforce,” Ricketts said. The state added tougher requirements for maintaining benefits and for contacting employers to apply for openings. About 4,300 people now are receiving unemployment benefits.⁵ Push the able-bodied off the welfare wagon and force them into the workforce.

TAKE ACTION NOW. The NE Chamber of Commerce has committed to embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion, jettisoning traditional business values that attract businesses to NE and encourage business expansion here. “As we go forward, diversity and inclusion is not an option, it’s not something nice — it’s fundamental to the economic development of our state,” said the president of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce. Our NE Tourism Department marketing tag line is “Nebraska. Honestly, it’s not for everyone.” Correct. Our state is not for illegal aliens. Cutting taxes, especially our property taxes, will keep more Nebraskans working here and attract a flood of businesses and their workers from across the nation. If your business belongs to a NE chamber of commerce, terminate your membership. Join another business organization like the NE Federation of Independent Business. As individuals, boycott businesses that you believe hire illegal aliens or display bilingual signage. Urge your state senator to restrict welfare payments, so that additional individuals allergic to work must find employment. Urge senators to pass legislation that will encourage illegal aliens to leave NE. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for state senator contact information and to join our NTF *Project Immigration*.

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⁵ Grant Schulte, AP. [Nebraska’s quandary: Can it force more citizens to work?](#) Dec. 19, 2021.