



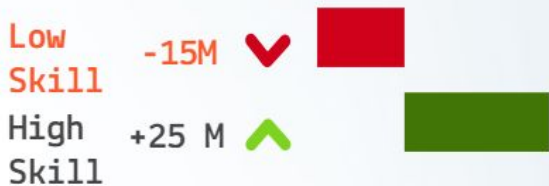
Saving American Immigration

By: David Friday II

America's Problem

The immigration system in America is broken. For the past 50 years, the immigration system in the United States has favored family connections over any other criteria, and this has caused negative effects on both the native-born Americans and the immigrant population. The current system is long and complex which discourages both skilled and legal immigration (Harker, 2013). In 2012, about 50% of households headed by an immigrant rely on at least one welfare program, compared to 30% for the native population (Dane, 2017). Immigrants admitted under the current system are also being put at a significant disadvantage since the economy of America is shifting more and more to automation, and this will cause the loss of millions of low-skilled jobs that immigrants admitted under the current system rely on (Dane, 2017).

Impact of Automation on Jobs (projected)



According to former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, there is slack in the American labor market and wages are not increasing the way they should be. One cause of this is that low-skilled immigrants attracted by the current immigration system make it harder for low-skilled Americans to negotiate higher wages, leading to slow wage growth for both groups (Flinchum, 2017). The American immigration system should make sure that immigrants that enter the country can succeed in the American economy, rather than struggle as many do today, and the solution to this multitude of issues is the adoption of a Points-Based immigration system.

What Is Points-Based Immigration?

Also known as Merit-Based immigration, it is an immigration system where applicants are given a number of points determined by different criteria, for example:



(Dane, 2017)

Points can also be awarded to any other criteria a government deems fit, so the system can be very flexible (Dane, 2017). Applicants must reach a certain number of points before they can enter the country (Dane, 2017).

Does It Work In Practice?

In 1967, Canada adopted a Points-Based immigration system. Other countries to adopt this system include the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. Since Canada adopted the system it has seen a multitude of benefits (Lvin, 2014):

What Points-Based Immigration has done for Canada

<p>Fill Gaps in Labor Market Gov't oversight allows specific skills to be targeted</p>	<p>Greater Immigrant Job Mobility</p>	<p>Eliminated Backlogs Immigrants stuck waiting for Visas could more quickly acquire them</p>
<p>Positive Economic Impact</p>	<p>More Gov't Transparency Information is easy to access and point system is clear</p>	

Other Benefits



Greater Ability to Oversee & Manage Types of Immigrants



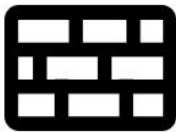
Chosen by Likelihood to Succeed

Less immigrant poverty



Increase Wages for Low-Skill Workers

Including Immigrants



Decrease Illegal Immigration

More transparent and simple system to enter legally



Promotes the acceptance of Immigration

(Green & Green, 2017) (Flinchum, 2017) (Harker, 2013) (Lvin, 2014)

Myths & Misconceptions

- American universities feel it would hurt their foreign students (Flinchum, 2019)
 - Foreign students would have no obstruction to stay temporarily and it would benefit them later if they wanted to come to the US. (Flinchum, 2019)
- Agricultural firms worry it would reduce their access to cheap labor (Flinchum, 2019)
 - Agriculture does not depend on green card holders, the only group affected by Point Based Immigration; only 4200 of the 1M green cards in 2015 were for Agriculture (Flinchum, 2019)
- Other issues like the system not including families, dreamers, etc. can be solved by incorporating criteria that award points for these purposes or, as Canada does, still uses other systems of immigration alongside the Points-Based system. (Flinchum, 2019)

Taking all of this into account, it is clear to see that a Points-Based immigration system would greatly benefit immigrants and the people of the United States. Public support of high-skilled immigration, what a Points-Based system will create. Contact your representatives and join the effort to improve American immigration.

**Take a stand,
It's Time for
Immigration
Reform**

American Support of High Skilled Immigration



78%

Support

19%

Oppose

(Connor et al., 2019)

Works Cited

- Dane, B. (2017, May 04). Trump Is Right: America Needs A Merit-Based Immigration Policy. Retrieved February 18, 2019, from https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-merit-based-immigration_us_5907bbf4e4b0bb2d0870aad3
- Flinchum, D. (2017, November 29). A merit-based immigration system would help Americans - and skilled foreigners. Retrieved February 17, 2019, from <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/362227-a-merit-based-immigration-system-would-help-americans>
- Lvin, K. (2014, July 16). O Canada: 5 Advantages of Using a Points-Based Immigrant Selection System. Retrieved February 18, 2019, from <https://policyinterns.com/2014/07/16/o-canada-5-advantages-of-using-a-points-based-immigrant-selection-system/>
- Harker, M. (2013). Immigration Reform: The Applicability of a Point Based Immigration System in the United States. *Willamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution*,21(1), 56-78. Retrieved February 17, 2019.**
- Green, A. G., & Green, D. A. (1995). Canadian Immigration Policy: The Effectiveness of the Point System and Other Instruments. *The Canadian Journal of Economics*,28(4b), 1006. doi:10.2307/136133**
- Connor, P., Ruiz, N. G., Connor, P., & Ruiz, N. G. (2019, February 15). Majority of Americans Support High-Skilled Immigration. Retrieved April 12, 2019, from <https://www.pewglobal.org/2019/01/22/majority-of-u-s-public-supports-high-skilled-immigration/>