

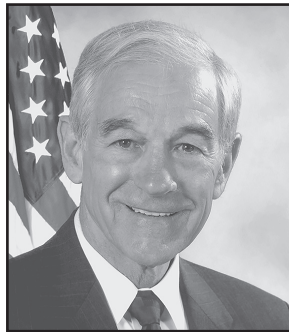
Ron Paul's FREEDOM REPORT

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What's Missing in the Current Immigration 'Crisis' Debate

Texas Straight Talk
7/13/14



Over the past several weeks we have seen a significant increase in illegal immigration, as thousands of unaccompanied minors pour across what seems an invisible southern border into the United States. The mass immigration has, as to be expected, put an enormous strain on local resources, and it has heated up the immigration debate in the US.

Most liberals and conservatives miss the point, however, making the same old arguments we have all heard before. Liberals argue that we need to provide more welfare and assistance to these young immigrants, while conservatives would bus them to the other side of the border, drop them off, and deploy drones to keep them out.

Neither side seems interested in considering why is this happening in the first place. The truth is, this latest crisis is a consequence of mistaken government policies on both sides of the border.

In fact much of the problem can be directly traced to the US drug war, which creates unlivable conditions in countries that produce narcotics for export to the US. Many of those interviewed over the past several weeks have cited violent drug gangs back home as a main motivation for their departure. Because some Americans want to use drugs here in the US, governments to the

south are bribed and bullied to crack down on local producers. The resulting violence has destroyed economies and lives from Mexico to Nicaragua and beyond. Addressing the failed war on drugs would go a long way to solving the immigration crisis.

I understand the argument of some libertarians that there should be no limits at all on who comes into the United States, but the reality is we do not live in a libertarian society. We live in a society where healthcare is provided — often by over-burdened emergency rooms that cannot legally turn away the sick — “free” education is provided, and other support via food stamp programs is also made available for “free” to illegal immigrants. Many even argue that they should be allowed to vote!

In a free society where the warfare-welfare state ceased to exist, immigration laws would be far less important. A free market would seek workers rather than immigrants to add to its welfare rolls. Voting itself would decline in significance. If 20 people lived on a privately-owned island, for example, one owner could decide to have a guest on his property without bothering the other 19. Were we to move in this direction in the US, the current immigration crisis would be a thing of the past.

Over many years while I was in Congress, I met with scores of employers in my district who faced terrible red tape just to be allowed to bring in temporary agricultural workers who would willingly return home once the work was finished. How ironic that Americans willing to provide jobs for immigrants seeking honest work were thwarted by the same government that has

now opened the door to a flood of immigrants seeking welfare and other assistance.

One thing we can be sure about: as Republicans and Democrats tussle over “reform” bills, more money will be thrown at the symptoms produced by past bad policies instead of addressing the real causes of the current crisis. The president’s \$4 billion supplemental request to address the issue is a costly mix of welfare and enforcement that will do very little to solve the problem because it treats the symptoms instead of the cause. Real reform means changing a failed approach, and until that happens we can count on more expensive mistakes.

Ron Paul’s Texas Straight Talk, 7/6/14

Hobby Lobby Decision Creates Small Island of Freedom in Ocean of Statism

This week, supporters of religious freedom cheered the Supreme Court’s ruling in the Hobby Lobby case. The Court was correct to protect business owners from being forced to violate their religious beliefs by pay-

ing for contraceptives. However, the decision was very limited in scope and application.

The Court’s decision only applies to certain types of businesses, for example, “closely-held corporations” that have a “sincere” religious objection to paying for contraceptive coverage. Presumably, federal courts or bureaucrats will determine if a business’s religious objection to the mandate is “sincere” or not and therefore eligible for an opt-out from one Obamacare mandate.

Opponents of the Court’s decision are correct that a religious objection does not justify a special exemption from the Obamacare contraception mandate, but that is because all businesses should be exempt from all federal mandates. Federal laws imposing mandates on private businesses violate the business owners’ rights of property and contract.

Mandated benefits such as those in Obamacare also harm those employees who do not need or want them. Benefit packages resulting from negotiations between employers and employees are much more likely to satisfy both the employer and employee than benefit packages imposed by politicians and bureaucrats.

Opponents of the Court’s decision argue that Obamacare gives employees a “right” to free birth control that trumps the employers’ property rights. This argument confuses rights with desires. Successfully lob-

Ron Paul Discusses Immigrant ‘Surge’

Earlier this month, Ron Paul was interviewed on NewsMax TV’s Steve Malzberg Show. Asked about the current immigration crisis, he had this to say:

We already have many problems in Texas and Arizona, where individuals come over. The health issue strikes me as something major, even over and above some detailed arguments over how we can improve our immigration policies. One of my arguments for trying to stem the tide would be to remove the incentives and to get free everything — free medical care, free education.

Our hospitals had already been under siege by immigrants but with these thousands — tens

of thousands, who knows how many — you are going to see some very serious health problems. We’ve already overburdened many hospitals, and there is also going to be this big argument of where are we going to get the money to do this.

Obama has already asked for \$2 billion to help, but most of that he wants to send down to Nicaragua. I just don’t trust giving money to governments down in Central America.

I don’t see an easy answer to this, but I do know that we spend way too much money worrying about the borders between Syria and Iraq and Afghanistan, and we don’t seem to have any concern or policies that would be more sensible here at home.

bying the government to force someone else to grant your wishes does not magically transform a desire into a “right.”

Redefining rights as desires to be fulfilled by the government also means that the government can modify, limit, or even take away those rights. After all, since your rights are gifts from government, there is no reason why you should object when the government takes away those rights for the common good.

Those who believe Congress can create a right to free contraception that overrides property rights should consider that the government may use that power to create and take away rights in ways they find objectionable. For example, if our rights are gifts from the government, then there is no reason why Congress should not limit our right to privacy by allowing the NSA to monitor our phone calls and Internet use.

The politicization of healthcare benefits is a direct result of government policies that not only encourage people to think of healthcare as a right, but to expect their employers to provide health insurance. Government policies encouraging over-reliance on third-party

payers is the root of many of our healthcare problems.

Opponents of the Hobby Lobby decision are correct when they say that their bosses should not decide whether their healthcare plans cover contraceptives. However, like all supporters of Obamacare, they are incorrect in seeking to fix the problems with healthcare through more government intervention. Instead, they should join those of us working to create a free-market healthcare system that gives individuals control of their healthcare dollars. In a true free market, individuals would have the ability to obtain affordable healthcare without having to rely on government mandates or subsidies.

The debate over which, if any, businesses deserve an exemption from Obamacare’s contraception mandate is rooted in a misunderstanding of property and contract rights. All businesses and all Americans deserve an exemption not just from Obamacare, but from all mandates. Individuals should be given the freedom and responsibility to obtain the healthcare coverage that meets their needs without relying on the government to force others to provide it.

The Ron Paul Institute Moves to Texas

At the Ron Paul Channel, Dr. Paul speaks with Ron Paul Institute Director, Daniel McAdams, about the Institute’s recent move to Clute, Texas.

Ron Paul: Some people ask me, ‘what is this idea of you moving your institute away from D.C. Isn’t it crucial that you stay in D.C.? Why aren’t you staying where all the action is?’

Daniel McAdams: A lot of people have asked me that same question. But as you know, we are a very different kind of institute. We are not necessarily trying to influence policymakers directly. As a matter of fact they probably don’t want to listen to us right now. But we also know that the level of trust in the mainstream media is on a steady decline -- as well as the viewership.

What we see is that people are looking to respon-



sible alternative sources to provide new kinds of information. So our audience is not a Congressman sitting in Washington or one of these fancy think tanks. Our audience is interested and informed readers who will hopefully get more informed by reading our work. And then they may start informing their policymakers or whoever they wish. We are helping people who are sick of the mainstream media who want some alternatives.

For more information, see ronpaulinstitute.org.

Opt-Out of Common Core, Opt-In to the Ron Paul Curriculum

Oklahoma recently took action to protect the state's children from the federal education bureaucracy by withdrawing from Common Core. Common Core is the latest attempt to bribe states, with money taken from the American people, into adopting a curriculum developed by federal bureaucrats and education "experts." In exchange for federal funds, states must change their curriculum by, for example, replacing traditional mathematics with "reform math." Reform math turns real mathematics on its head by focusing on "abstract thinking" instead of traditional concepts like addition and subtraction. Schools must also replace classic works of literature with "informational" texts, such as studies by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Those poor kids!

Oklahoma will likely not be the last state to explicitly ban Common Core, as grassroots opposition to this latest federal education "reform" scheme continues to grow. While "reform math" and the use of "informational" texts grab headlines and fuel the outrage behind this movement, they are just symptoms of the problem, not the cause. The devil with Common Core lies not in its details but in its underlying principle. That principle is that that DC-based central planners can develop a curriculum suitable for every student. The idea that government "experts" can centrally plan a nation's educational system is just as flawed as the idea that government can centrally plan the economy.

One major flaw in a curriculum designed by central planners for use by all students is that it will likely not be academically rigorous enough to meet the needs of college-bound students. Yet at the same time, "one-size-fits-all" curricula like Common Core offer little to meet the needs of students interested in technical or vocational education opportunities.

Growing dissatisfaction with Common Core and other centralized education schemes is leading an increasing number of parents to pursue alternatives such as homeschooling. Throughout my congressional career I was a defender of homeschooling. Now that I am out of Congress, I have expanded my work with homeschoolers through my Ron Paul Curriculum. The curriculum provides students with a rigorous education in history, math, English, foreign languages, and other subjects.

While the curriculum is designed to prepare students for college-level work, students not interested in pursuing a traditional four-year college degree will also benefit.

The curriculum features three tracks: natural science/math, social sciences/humanities, and business. Students may also take courses in personal finance and public speaking. The curriculum avoids the ideological biases common in public schools; for example, the government and history sections of the curriculum emphasize Austrian economics, libertarian political theory, and the history of liberty.

Students can use the student discussion forums to interact with, learn from, and teach their peers.

One unique feature of the curriculum is that it gives students the opportunity to start their own Internet-based businesses.

The curriculum is free for students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Families above the fifth grade pay \$250 a year, plus \$50 per course. However, for the next three months, the Ron Paul Curriculum is offering -- for non-members only -- an online summer school refresher program for students above the fifth grade. For just \$25 students can access the curriculum for three months. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to see if my curriculum meets their child's needs.

If you are a parent dissatisfied with existing education options, I hope you will take advantage of the Ron Paul Curriculum's summer refresher program and consider opting out of Common Core and opting in to the Ron Paul Curriculum.

Nothing in this publication is intended to aid or hinder the passage of legislation before Congress.

About the F.R.E.E. Foundation

The Foundation for Rational Economics and Education, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public foundation dedicated to individual liberty and free-market economics. It was founded by Congressman Ron Paul of Texas and publishes his Freedom Report. For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation write: F.R.E.E., Inc., P.O. Box 1776, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566, or call 979-265-3034.