



The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

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To the Editor:

The horrible images of the crying toddlers are seared into our brains. But now that our President has put the policy of separating babies and young children from their families on hold, it is time to adopt an immigration policy that meets our country's needs and that makes us proud.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote the reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; permit qualified persons to enter the US on student visas or work visas; all persons should receive fair treatment under the law; we should have an efficient, expeditious, backlog free system for legal entry of immigrants. During the transition to the new system, unauthorized immigrants already here should be able to earn legal status.

The U.S. House has just rejected an ultra-conservative immigration policy, and the Goodlatte bill, which is due to come up soon as a "compromise" isn't better. It cuts the family-based immigration system and the diversity visa program. It includes ramped up enforcement measures that would further tear families apart. We can do better than that. Besides a policy that meets the LWW's goals, we need to develop a plan and utilize our resources to reunite the separated children with their families. We don't need a wall. Tax payer's money is better spent on infrastructure, for example, roads and bridges.

We urge people to pay attention to this issue and contact their U.S. Congressional representatives to tell them what kind of immigration policy that would make America proud.

Pattie Garrett
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