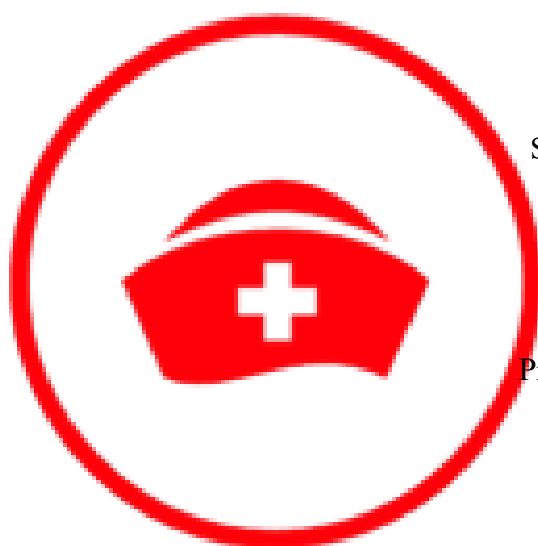




**Recent Politically Charged Issues in the USA: Abortion, Immigration, Legalization of
Marijuana**



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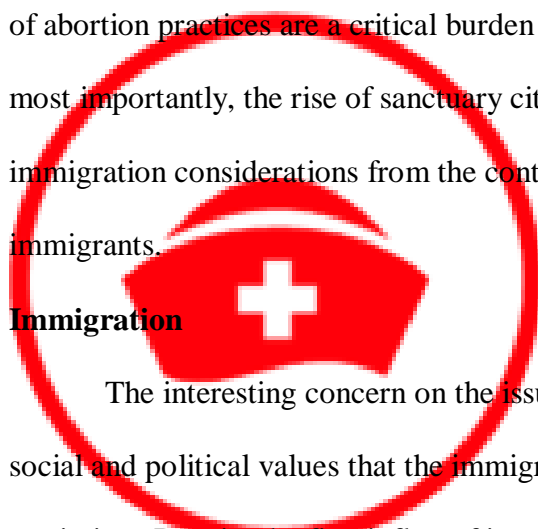
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Recent Politically Charged Issues in the USA: Abortion, Immigration, Legalization of Marijuana

As the population of America grows, the community has continued to experience political challenges. The issue of immigration and immigrants in the USA has become a prevalent issue. The USA authorities face a challenging moment as they come in reality with the growing population of immigrants. On the other hand, the issues of legalization of marijuana and abortion have attracted debate on recent political influence relating to the regulation of the associated practice. The issue of immigration, legalization of marijuana, and indirect regulation of abortion practices are a critical burden in the USA that has been politically charged; however, most importantly, the rise of sanctuary cities attracts urgent intervention to enhance removal of immigration considerations from the context of enforcement of criminal law to protect the immigrants.

Immigration

The interesting concern on the issue of immigrants is the associated concerns on the social and political values that the immigrants may have towards American identity and patriotism. Despite the first influx of immigrants happening as early as the 1880s, the Americans have not settled on the associated value that the immigrants can bring to the democracy of the nation. The Congress effort to lift ban on restrictions of immigrants in 1965 accelerated the influx of immigrants into the USA as compared to the 1920s (Ginseberg et al., 2018). According to the 2016 Census report, about 13.5 % of the American population was not born in the USA, and 10.9% coming from Europe (Ginseberg et al., 2018). With the increase of immigrants, Americans have experienced challenges in determining whether that the immigrants have the rights to be presented in congressional districts or even be trusted to have values that can



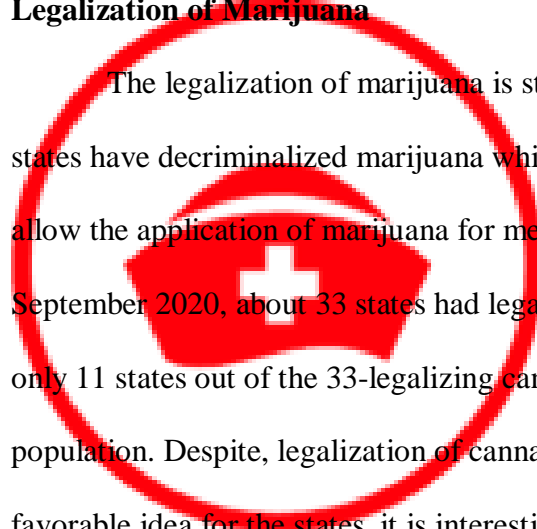
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enhance them serve the country in military operations. More so, there are concern children of citizens of the USA stationed in overseas military operation losing their automatic identity of American citizenship if they are born outside the USA. To address issues on non-citizens serving in the military, the bill H.R. 4803 was passed to deny children of non-citizens and immigrants serving in the military who are born outside the USA to lose automatic citizenship (GovTrack.us, 2020). The confusion with this bill is that it persists to deny non-citizens automatic citizenship even after the individual serves the country. Thus, demonstrating that immigrants have not been fully valued as American citizens.

Legalization of Marijuana

The legalization of marijuana is still a critical issue in the USA. Interestingly, some of the states have decriminalized marijuana while other states have criminalized marijuana but opts to allow the application of marijuana for medical purposes. Wallace (2020) claimed that by September 2020, about 33 states had legalized the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes with only 11 states out of the 33-legalizing cannabis for recreational purposes among the adult population. Despite, legalization of cannabis in favor of medical purposes being the most favorable idea for the states, it is interesting that states and the national government have developed competing measures for this legalization. For instance, in Mississippi, a regulatory program has been proposed constitutionally that would oversee the growth and sales of marijuana at a preferable tax of 7%. On the other hand, Congress is engaging on the bill H.R.3884 that focuses on decriminalizing marijuana because it eliminates marijuana from the listed substances under the Controlled Substances Act (GovTrack.us, 2020a). Besides, the bill imposes a tax of 5% on marijuana products GovTrack.us, 2020a). The development of the

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legalization of marijuana may eventually attract taxation and regulation of cannabis products like other legal drugs when legalized for recreational purposes.

Abortion

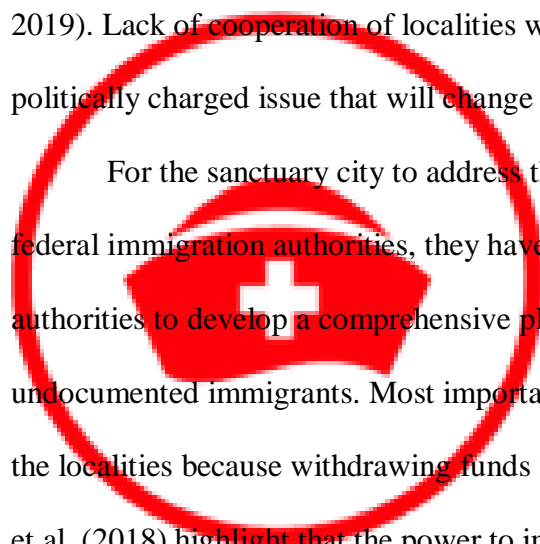
Texas has established policy focusing to restrict abortion for impregnated women but not as a result of incest or rape. The uniqueness of this policy is that it compels doctors to a compulsory sonogram to the impregnated women and view not only the description and position of the fetus but also vaginal examinations. The punitive measures of the law include revoking licenses of doctors who do not take sonograms before abortion action practice. The objective of this policy is to ~~undue~~ the burden on women when deciding whether to abort (Champagne et al., 2019) Interestingly, the Supreme Court has highlighted a constitutional right for protecting women aborting and the practice of compulsory sonogram is a tactical move to restrict women from aborting. While the opponents argue that the policy invades the privacy of the pregnant women and sonogram attracts costs that may be a barrier for the pregnant women to abort, the policy may be serving a regulatory role.

Sanctuary Cities

The border issues and immigration are critical problems prevailing in Texas, which may change the demographic status in Texas. There have been political differences in the way various cities in Texas are responding to the increasing population of undocumented immigrants. Sanctuary cities such as Austin have failed to comply with immigration authorities at the federal level. In the local government, sheriffs in the sanctuary cities have withheld information concerning undocumented immigrants and persistently failed to submit to the federal immigration communities (Champagne et al., 2019). To threaten the sanctuary cities through politics, President Trump claimed that homeland security and the Department of Justice would

withdraw from funding the sanctuary cities for failing to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a result, the sanctuary cities have sued the federal government for failing to avail funds to the cities. Senator Charles Perry introduced SB 4 (Senate Bill 4) that would criminalize cities failing to cooperate with federal authorities concerning immigrants (Champagne et al. 2019). The bill was greatly rejected because undocumented immigrants in Texas would fear testifying in local government for the fear of been handed over to the federal authorities. As a result, other cities such as California became a sanctuary city in 2018 with part of California localities reluctant to commit themselves as sanctuary cities (Champagne et al., 2019). Lack of cooperation of localities with the federal immigration authorities is becoming a politically charged issue that will change the USA in the coming years.

For the sanctuary city to address the indifferences attributed to poor cooperation with federal immigration authorities, they have to collaborate with the federal immigration authorities to develop a comprehensive plan that is tailored to equal protection of rights of the undocumented immigrants. Most importantly, the federal authorities have to continue funding the localities because withdrawing funds is a coercive approach against the constitution. Somin et al. (2018) highlight that the power to impose regulations or authorize funding on the enforcement of immigration of the sanctuary cities rests on Congress. Rather than the federal government associating undocumented immigration with levels of criminality in local government, the federal government has to cooperate with local government to evaluate the way they remove crime from the community of largely undocumented immigrants. The sanctuary cities have well-coordinated designs of removing immigration considerations from the context of enforcement of criminal law (Lasch et al., 2018). Therefore, federal immigration should refrain



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from interfering with local government information on undocumented immigration, which is an act of equal protection to the concerned individuals of the community.

Conclusion

Conclusively, the issue of immigration, legalization of marijuana, and indirect regulation of abortion practices is a critical burden in the USA that has been politically charged. However, the rise of sanctuary cities attracts urgent intervention to enhance the objectives of the localities in combating crime among immigrants. Despite the constitutional rights of naturalization, children of non-citizens are restricted to acquire automatic American citizenship regardless of whether parents were stationed outside the USA at their time of birth. On the other hand, I found parallel efforts of the states and national government to tax cannabis roughly at 5-7% upon its legalization for recreational purposes. Interestingly, the sonogram plays a critical role to regulate abortion practices in Texas. Federal immigration authorities should focus on funding sanctuary cities to accomplish their plan for eliminating immigration considerations from the context of enforcement of criminal law to protect the immigrants.

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