

CLEVELAND JOBS *WITH* JUSTICE NOT OHIO JOBS *AND* JUSTICE

Cleveland Jobs with Justice, a coalition of 58 labor, community, and faith organizations working together to promote workers' rights and social justice in northeast Ohio, is **not** affiliated with the sponsor of this event, Ohio Jobs and Justice PAC. Cleveland Jobs *with* Justice strongly supports the rights of all workers, and opposes policies that treat immigrants as criminals, undermine labor rights, and promote division and intolerance in the communities where we live and work.

We feel that by using a similar name, the Ohio Jobs *and* Justice PAC (OJJPAC) is attempting to use the good reputation of our coalition to confuse the public. OJJPAC is aligned with anti-immigrant hate groups like the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). OJJPAC espouses hatred and extremism, not real solutions to our broken immigration system.

Below are some of myths about immigrants from OJJPAC, followed by the facts. For more information on Cleveland Jobs *with* Justice, visit our web site at <http://www.clevelandjwj.org/>.

OJJPAC Myth: Undocumented immigrants are taking jobs from American citizens.

Cleveland Jobs with Justice Fact: Immigrant workers complement, rather than displace, the American workforce. Their work helps bolster the economy and create new jobs. For example, native-born and immigrant workers keep U.S. farms in business, which creates additional jobs in processing, packaging, and transporting the produce to the consumer. Keeping farms operating in the United States also prevents us from having to rely on foreign producers for a greater share of our nation's food supply.

Moreover, undocumented immigrants are not to blame for the deterioration of labor standards in the workplace. The problem is our broken immigration system, and the government's failure to enforce labor laws when U.S. employers exploit native-born or immigrant workers. The answer to restoring a fair playing field for all workers is comprehensive immigration reform: legalization of the undocumented workforce, labor rights for all, and strong enforcement against employers who undermine union organizing efforts and exploit workers.

OJJPAC Myth: Undocumented immigrants are destroying our economy and using public benefits that should be reserved for U.S. citizens.

Cleveland Jobs with Justice Fact: Undocumented immigrants pay taxes and contribute to the U.S. economy, but are ineligible for most public services. It is estimated that between 50 and 75% of undocumented workers pay Federal, State, and local payroll taxes and make Social Security and Medicare contributions. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, taking undocumented workers who are currently paying payroll taxes out of the system would decrease federal revenues by at least \$17.3 billion over 10 years, not to mention the impact on State and local tax receipts. In addition, all undocumented workers pay sales tax and contribute to local governments through their rent and/or property taxes. They are ineligible for

almost all public assistance programs, with the exception of educating their children in public schools and emergency medical care.

OJJPAC Myth: Undocumented immigrants come to the United States to commit heinous crimes.

Cleveland Jobs with Justice Fact: Immigrants come here to work, not commit crimes. In fact, studies show that immigrants are five times less likely to be incarcerated than the native-born. While the undocumented immigrant population in the United States doubled from 1994 to 2005, crime rates plummeted. According to the conservative Americas Majority Foundation, areas with the largest increase in immigrants—both documented and undocumented—experienced the steepest decline and lowest rates of crime overall.

For more information, please see the following resources:

Cleveland Jobs with Justice

<http://www.clevelandjwj.org/>

Southern Poverty Law Center Intelligence Report

<http://www.splcenter.org/intel/intelreport/article.jsp?aid=886>

Top 10 Immigration Myths and Facts (National Immigration Forum)

<http://www.immigrationforum.org/documents/TheJourney/MythsandFacts.pdf>

Economic Growth and Immigration: Bridging the Demographic Divide (Immigration Policy Center)

<http://immigration.server263.com/images/File/specialreport/Econ%20Grwth%20Imm.pdf>

Service Employees International Union page on immigration

<http://www.seiu.org/issues/immigration/notebook.cfm>

Q&As on AFL-CIO's Immigration Policy

<http://www.aflcio.org/issues/civilrights/immigration/upload/ImmigQ&A200610.pdf>

Undocumented Immigrants as Taxpayers (Immigration Policy Center)

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/Undocumented%20as%20Taxpayer%2011-29-07.pdf>

Does the "SAVE Act" Save Anything? (Immigration Policy Center)

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/CBOandSAVE04-08.pdf>

It's Tax Time! Immigrants and Taxes (Immigration Policy Center)

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/Taxpayers04-08.pdf>

Immigrants and Crime: Setting the Record Straight (Immigration Policy Center)

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/ImmigrantsandCrime03-08.pdf>