

Sunday letters: Immigration lawyer sets the record straight

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Immigration

Regarding "Enough already on immigration reform" (Page B11, Tuesday), reading Ruben Navarrette Jr., on sensible immigration reform is always a huge disappointment. He pretends to support same, but in reality has been a constant critic and consistently provides outright misleading and false information, while pretending to be a Hispanic supporter of immigration reform speaking with some greater authority.

His claim that President Obama's "administration has pushed [immigration reform] further onto the horizon with enforcement policies that deported nearly 2 million people and divided scores of families" is misleading. The opponents of immigration reform on one hand have criticized the president for being unable to enforce immigration law, but in fact he prioritized enforcement policies so the emphasis was placed on deporting those with criminal convictions and outstanding deportation orders. Navarrette twists this into being a road block.

Navarrette also pulls out another old false canard that [Democrats](#) "are counting on the fact that citizens can vote" for their support of a pathway to citizenship. Leading Democrats have recognized that they are willing to compromise on this issue and nothing in the proposed legislation in the Senate bill leads anyone to automatic citizenship and at best would create the right to apply for citizenship in approximately 15 years. Even if that were the pass, only a relatively small percentage would actually take advantage of same.

Navarrette's explanation of the so-called "DREAM 9" group is completely inaccurate, and accusing the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#) (a group I served as the first national president outside the East Coast) and other advocacy groups of dealing in bad faith, "trying to fool the people whose cause they supposedly champion," is offensive beyond words.

I would simply say if you are looking for accurate information about immigration reform, you will not find it in any column I've read by [Ruben Navarrette, Jr.](#)

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