[Name of Student]

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**How to Improve Opportunities for Immigrants**

**Introduction**

Immigration has always been a vital engine of demographic and economic growth in the US general and Houston Texas particular. Immigration has provided labor force, contributed sustainability and electrification of the country. In this regard, the abolishment of national quotas through the "Immigration and Nationality Act" of 1965 resumed the flow of immigration for the last three decades. The immigration brings highly educated, young and motivated people around them and so far the US has been the largest magnet for the migrants. As per the latest Gallup World Polls, more than 150 million people have wished to migrate to the US (Giovanni Peri)

Immigration is the cardinal reason behind Houston’s rapid growth and diversity. Approximately 1.4 million foreign-born population have made almost a quarter of the total population. Since 2000 the foreign-born population has increased just about 60 percent, twice the national rate. According to the 2010 census, the influx of African-Americans, Latinos, and Asians have formed a substantial portion of the population. The three racial and ethnic groups along with other population from around the world have made Houston the most diverse metropolitan region of the world. In fact, Houston has surpassed New York in terms of economic and cultural diversity. Moreover, Houston is one of the strongest labor markets in the US and 2014, the most recent figures estimated that these foreign-born population has contributed more than 116 billion dollars to its economy. In addition, Houston has paid 2.9 billion dollars state and local taxes and has 31.8 billion dollars of spending power.

Despite such contributions, the immigrants face numerous socio-economic and environmental challenges. To say, the average immigrant incomes are considerably lower than that of the Houston-born residents and 20 percent of these immigrants live below the poverty line. In this regard, the Migration Policy Institute has pointed out that the lower income of these immigrants would possibly bring barriers to their access to legal assistance and integration (Nwosu). In this regard, The Welcoming Houston Task Force is dedicated to guaranteeing equality for the immigrants regardless of immigration status, length of time spent in the country and country of born. Moreover, 37 percent of the foreign-born immigrants have reported that they either “not well” or “not at all” speak to the English, and this put them to the category of Limited English Proficient (LEP). In addition, 41 percent of them lack a high-school diploma. All these issues put the immigrants to earn 0.74 dollars compared to 1.00 dollars of the Houston-born individuals (Nwosu). In this regard, the following is recommended for improving opportunities for immigrants.

* **Reforming the Visa Program**

Many in the tech industry are focusing on improving the H-1B visa program to the foreigners on a temporary basis in a certain specialized field. This will help in bringing talent by making it easier to acquire visas that will result in the creation of more opportunities. This needs to be part of the compressive immigration policy. Apart from that, Houston will have to initiate Startup Visa Programs that will open the doors for entrepreneurs with ideas. Moreover, Houston needs to give green cards to those students who came here for educational purposes so that they could help in economic growth. Those immigrants who are in Houston, the Mayor needs to find ways for their permanent stay by developing comprehensive immigration policy.

* **Appointment of Special Advisor to the Mayor on Immigration**

To expand the capacity building, the Mayor needs to appoint a Special Advisor for immigrants. In this regard, the office of New Americans and Immigration Communities will have to create a resource guide for English classes and language access. In addition, the NAIC should be given resources, power, and authority for refining the contemporary research best practices and bring new ideas and trends in immigration policies.

* **Increase the Number of Immigrant Representation**

On the City Boards and Commission, the number of immigrants needs to be increased who could provide a wide range of issues and topics to Mayor Office. This will give the immigration a greater voice for their community and help in policies made by the councils, committees, commissions, and boards. The immigrants help in reducing the mismatch between the labor and its supply, and local demand as the immigrants are more willing to stay anywhere in the greater Houston area.

* **The undocumented immigrants**

The immigrants who live without documentation needs to be documented. However, this way is significantly long and demanding and circles the right economic incentives for the continuous work in Houston. This will allow workers to be more mobile for jobs with their abilities. This in return likely to increase the wages and productivity (Matt Helmer).

**Conclusion**

A comprehensive immigration debate is continuous in Houston and has captured greater attention and it is focused on the socio-political and economic issues concerning the immigrants. While the families of immigrants are somewhat lost in the debate (CO-SPONSORS). Though, the immigrants pay a vital role in society and the economy by providing their services. However, many of these immigrants have been excluded from labor safety protections which the native-born have. It is either because these immigrants are exempted due to their disproportionally employed positions. Currently, the tradition of the nation for immigrants is strong as there are more immigrants in the US than any other part of the world.

Works Cited

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