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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Immigration reform needed

JOE HOHLFELD

CEDAR FALLS - Kudos to the May 14 editorial in The Courier, "Raid shows need for immigration reform." The editorial put the real problem into perspective.

People came here to work hard, stay out of trouble at all costs, and contribute to the Iowa economy. Now they are terrorized, in jails and detention centers. It is true that they broke the law. It is reminiscent of the 1960s. At that time, laws favored those who discriminated according to racial characteristics. Famous folks broke those laws, and now the laws are changed.

Under present law, employing an undocumented person (no human being is "illegal") is better than owning a slave. The legal threat of "turning in" is more effective than the whipping post, and there is no cost of purchase, or to provide food and shelter. If a slave died, it was a financial loss. An undocumented worker can be replaced at no cost. Current immigration law needs change. Iowa lawmakers failed to change Iowa law in the most recent session.

Governors Vilsack and Culver have both warned about the looming labor shortage in Iowa.

But our nation continues to have an unrealistically low quota for legal immigration. Our legislators in Washington are even more responsible for this fiasco than our Iowa legislators.