

***The Cincinnati Enquirer***  
**Letter to the Editor, “Your Voice” Column**  
**Word Count: 300**

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BRIDGES for a Just Community and local Hispanic community leaders are very supportive of *The Cincinnati Enquirer* and appreciative of the resources they’re devoting to educating the community about the Hispanic immigrants living among us.

While the plight of Mexican and other Hispanic immigrants is heart-wrenching, it’s so valuable for local residents who may be questioning the role these individuals play in our community to be reminded that this wave of 21<sup>st</sup> century immigrants is not unlike so many other ethnic and racial groups who have come to America in search of opportunity and freedom. As a community, we clearly need a stronger dose of the balanced approach provided by responsible journalists like Eileen Kelley and the project team.

We are encouraged by the Enquirer’s plans to provide ongoing coverage and insight on the issue as an important first step. Our hope is that additional pieces will continue to raise awareness and educate readers on the local contributions of Hispanics in our community, including local efforts by individuals and organizations such as Su Casa, Centro de Amistad, NKU Latino/Multicultural Center and others, to educate and support new immigrants so they can succeed and become contributing members of the community.

This is an important step toward an open community dialogue on an incredibly difficult issue – most agree that the need for immigration reform is imminent. While the Enquirer’s blog hosted community conversation that was very aggressive towards “illegal immigrants,” we are encouraged by the Enquirer’s intention to explore this very controversial issue. The best we can do is to weigh in by adding our comments to the blog.

We are hopeful that a balanced and fair approach to this challenging issue will continue to open the hearts and minds of all those who want Cincinnati to be a welcoming community.