Immigration reform is key for building new businesses

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Terri Morris Downs
Letter to the Editor

In a letter published May 8, Sherm Johnson stated “clearly the spirit of entrepreneurship is waning nationally.” In Indiana, there is a 47 percent decline in one-year-old businesses.

One solution to this problem is fixing America’s broken immigration system. Immigrants are among the most entrepreneurial Americans. In Indiana last year, Latino-owned businesses had sales of $1.7 billion and employed more than 14,000 people. Asian-owned businesses had sales and receipts of $3.4 billion and employed nearly 25,000 Hoosiers.

A bipartisan immigration reform bill has passed the Senate last year, and the Republicans in the House of Representatives have the power to fire up a sleeping economic engine in America’s immigrant population.

Whether it is the DREAM Act, an expansion of H-1B visas, or legal status for immigrants currently in the United States, every aspect of comprehensive immigration reform will be beneficial to our economy.

I hope our Indiana congressional delegation urges House leadership to hold a vote on immigration reform this year.

Terri Morris Downs
Indianapolis