

Immigration reform is key for building new businesses

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Terri Morris Downs
Letter to the Editor



Miguel Gonzalez, from the Peruvian Consulate, right, assists Violeta Quiroz, left, and her daughter Francesca D'Orazi, both Evansville, as they get new passports at a fair for Indiana's Latino community in the Farm Bureau Building at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 29, 2011. Representatives of U.S. consulates from Mexico, Guatemala and Peru

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.

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