

Letter to Editor of the *Times Union* in Albany, NY - April 24, 2021

As a winter resident of southern Arizona, I welcome the Biden administration's recent efforts regarding immigration.

Most new arrivals are fleeing El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, willing to risk their lives to obtain a better future for themselves but especially for their children, just as migrants everywhere have done for eons when the conditions they face allow no alternative.

The majority of Guatemalans and Hondurans live below the poverty line and most are employed in the informal sector without any social protections. The pandemic has deepened poverty and food insecurity dramatically and shown the inadequacies of government responses. These are among the most dangerous countries in the world with very high murder rates, domestic violence, and gang recruitment of minors.

The Biden administration is restoring aid that will put development, security, and anti-corruption efforts back on track, efforts that may well reduce the numbers seeking to flee. The U.S. asylum system is also to be reactivated to ensure compliance with international law and to provide for greater order.

Until some stability returns to the region, I will continue to ask myself what I as a parent would do if I faced the conditions and circumstances faced by parents there. I must think that I would take the risks associated with the dangerous journey to the U.S. border as they do to protect and provide for my children. I believe you would also.

Carol Whittaker