



Issue Essentials

Oct. 1, 2018

Jay Webber's Wrong, Misleading Immigration Plan

Jay Webber's newly released [four "pillars of a safe and fair immigration system"](#) echo the same old misleading points from the Trump administration and other Republicans. Webber, an award winning ["Defender of the Family,"](#) has also [remained mum](#) on family separations and caging of children.

- **Pillar 1: "Secure Our Borders":** Webber has [called for tougher border security](#) but hasn't explicitly endorsed the wall. His pillar states: "Physical barriers appear to make sense for some of the border, and where not practical, additional [measures should be deployed]." However, barriers [already exist](#) along parts of the border. Webber talks tough to pander to the Trump base but publishes ambiguous policy statements to appease the majority for whom [the wall is unpopular](#).
- **Pillar 2: "End Sanctuary Cities":** Webber [states](#), "...we see Governor Murphy planning to turn all of New Jersey into a 'Sanctuary State' ...The [plan] sabotages and thwarts the enforcement of our immigration law by [ICE]." While Gov. Murphy suggested becoming a Sanctuary State, no plan has been proposed that would do what Webber says will happen. Once again, he is shamelessly indulging the far right by aligning Murphy with the GOP's [inaccurate](#) stance on Sanctuary Cities.
- **Pillar 3: "Merit-based Immigration":** "[policy] must be reoriented toward skill and merit and away from random lotteries and extended 'chain migration' that does not account for or contribute to our nation's economic well-being," Is there merit to [Webber's plan](#)? No, because the statement is patently false. The current system contributes quite well to our nation's economy. Under the current lottery system, immigrants' share of total wages and business income was 1.7% higher than their expected share based on population, according to the [Economic Policy Institute](#). [Undocumented immigrants](#) also pay taxes, as much as [\\$23.6 billion in 2015](#).

Webber also falsely claims undocumented immigrants in N.J. receive taxpayer-paid benefits at the expense of citizens, citing the expansion of Tuition Aid Grants, [signed by Murphy](#), which includes undocumented immigrants who graduated from N.J. high schools. However, the act [increases the budget](#) to \$4.5 million to cover immigrant newcomers while maintaining the average disbursement for everyone else. In other words, the new law simply *expands the size of the pie* to cover eligible immigrants – a pie that immigrants pay into via taxes.

- **Pillar 4: "Common Sense Solution for Dreamers":** Like many of his GOP counterparts, Webber toes the party line on Dreamers by calling for a ["reasonable path to legal status."](#) However, he has never clearly defined a solution, nor what conditions, if any, he'd require for his vote on a Dreamer bill. The House GOP [immigration bill drafted last June](#) was laden with anti-family conditions like maintaining child detentions, along with \$25 billion for the wall. This does not seem to be the way to a "common sense solution for Dreamers."

Paid for by NJ 11th for Change (www.nj11thforchange.org) and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Contact us at: NJ 11th for Change P.O. Box 43120 Upper Montclair, NJ 07043