

HB1706 testimony

Rep Travis Corcoran, Hillsborough 28
2026 Feb 24

Intro

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) oversees the state's refugee resettlement program, known as the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), under the Office of Health Access

The program is 100% federally funded and the stated goal is to help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and successful integration within five years of arrival.

There is zero evidence to suggest this program works, and huge amounts of evidence to suggest that it does not - and burdens New Hampshire citizens with dozens of different costs, including but not limited to welfare payments, unemployment payments, increased school spending, social fragmentation, crime, cultural conflicts between heritage Americans and refugees, and also between refugees of different ethnicities, increased rates of communicable diseases, a housing crisis, and population replacement.

Who benefits?

Much testimony against this bill will argue that the refugee resettlement program is good for the people it serves.

My response is simple: I don't care. Lots of things might be good for Somalis or Haitians or Bhutanese, but the government of the state of New Hampshire does not exist for the benefit of Somalis or Haitians or Bhutanese: it exists for the benefit of citizens of New Hampshire.

The relevant question is: does the refugee program benefit New Hampshire citizens?

My answer is "No", and more specifically, that the program is very **bad** for the citizens of New Hampshire.

For that reason, we should end it, immediately.

Legitimacy of refugee claims

According to US law, the term “refugee” means

any person...who is unable or unwilling to return to ... [their] country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion

cite:

8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42)

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1101>

Does this mean that everyone that the refugee program settles in New Hampshire is a legitimate refugee?

No, because no evidence at all is required.

The law itself says:

"The testimony of the applicant ...may be sufficient to sustain the burden of proof without corroboration."

Cite:

- 8 CFR § 1208.13 - Establishing asylum eligibility
- <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/8/1208.13>

Do we have any evidence that economic migrants, who are here to use welfare and other programs, lie to achieve refugee status?

Absolutely.

NPR's Planet Money explains:

Immigration officials are moving against these immigrants in a sweeping review that federal authorities say is related to a 2012 investigation into asylum mills. During that probe, federal prosecutors in New York rounded up 30 immigration lawyers, paralegals and interpreters who had helped immigrants fraudulently obtain asylum in Manhattan's Chinatown and in Flushing, Queens. The case was dubbed Operation Fiction Writer.

The federal government says the people convicted during Operation Fiction Writer had helped more than 3,500 immigrants, most of them Chinese, win asylum. Authorities accused them of dumping boilerplate language in stories of persecution, coaching clients to memorize and recite fictitious details to asylum officers, and fabricating documents to buttress the fake asylum claims.

- Cite: <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2018/09/28/652218318/thousands-could-be-deported-as-government-targets-asylum-mills-clients>

In that single investigation, the number is actually much larger than the initial 3,500 fake refugees because of “follow-to-join derivative status” (a.k.a. chain migration) where each refugee (or fake refugee) gets to bring over a spouse and children using the **I-730 “Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition.”**

Note that Operation Fiction Writer was only a single investigation. There is zero reason to believe that these events were unique; indeed, this investigation itself found 30 lawyers participating in refugee fraud. It is almost certain that a very large percent of all refugees are fake economic migrants.

Picture of a typical refugee

Refugees in New Hampshire have astoundingly low human capital. Don't trust me ; trust an advocate for the refugees.

Cite:

- Refugee Resettlement in New Hampshire: Pathways and Barriers to Building Community; Nina Glick Schiller, PhD. ; University of New Hampshire
- <https://cola.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2018/09/uprooted-refugee.pdf>

Education

- 14.5% have ZERO education
- 62% have not graduated high school (page 10)

English

- None - 33%
- poor or none - 51% (page 17)

Employment:

- almost 25% are unemployed
- of those who work, many who worked did not work full time (page 19)
- "low-wage workers" (page 2)

Goals: most refugees hope and plan for chain migration

- “The highest thing I can think is to try to bring some of my family people here” (page 12)
- top three goals include "bringing family to the US" (page 27)

Culture and Assimilation

Refugees in New Hampshire retain their original culture and assimilate to American norms very poorly, and even the pro-refugee NH report documents this.

- **Public drinking:** refugees complain that public drinking is not allowed and are upset that police enforce this law on them (page 24)
- **Child abuse:** refugees believe that beating children is appropriate, and complain that American law doesn't let them (page 24)
- **Ingratitude:** refugees complain that benefits from the taxpayer aren't even more lavish, e.g. "Now who will help me? The government doesn't help me; nobody helps me" (page 24)
- **Clannishness / lack of assimilation:** refugees do not assimilate, but cluster in their own ethnic ghettos. "migrants often grouped together with people of the same nationality... [but] the question of community is complicated because of the existing divisions that refugees bring with them from their home country" (page 24)
- **Intra-refugee ethnic tensions:** refugees do not assimilate with each other, but jockey for more funding for their own groups. "tensions between refugees ... arise because...the resettlement agency is accused of favoritism toward particular ethnic groups because of these differential allocations. For example, one man told us: 'When we moved here, there are some refugees that [the resettlement agency] paid their rent for several months, but they only paid ours for two months. They furnished their house so well, did a lot of things for them, but with us they did not.' " (page 24)
- **Import the third world, import the third world's ethnic and political grievances:** NH has accepted 1,175 refugees from Bhutan and we already have an NGO Building Community in New Hampshire (BCNH) that strives to import more refugees from Bhutan, and have bills seeking to embroil NH in foreign relations that we [should] have no stake in
 - <https://www.bcinnh.org/our-vision>
 - https://gc.nh.gov/bill_status/billinfo.aspx?id=1708&inflect=2

Manchester's Experience

The city of Manchester had a host of problems stemming from Massachusetts based NGOs dumping refugees there, and the city documented this in a report over twenty years ago: "Manchester Refugee Resettlement Report PDF (July 11 2006)"

Problems include:

- City forced to develop 596 different language versions of the forms and documents
- Ascentria placed 16 refugees in a 3 bedroom apartment (page 3)
- Because they are unskilled, refugees are exceedingly poor, earning \$7.78/hr ... inflation adjusted to ~ \$15 (page 3)
- City schools forced to handle 2,316 "English learners" (page 3)

- Refugees have infectious diseases including tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis, giardia, malaria, and a number of other communicable diseases. (page 4)
- City on the hook for paying interpreters at \$45/hr (inflation adjusted to \$90/hr) (page 4)
- “ In contrast to the large organizations that have been created to help settle refugees [here] little support exists to help communities provide the support services central to the acculturation and success of refugee families.” (page 11)
- “After 8 months, the INH and LSS are no longer obligated to provide services to refugee Families. While the responsibility of the resettlement agencies to support refugee families ends after 8 months, many refugees will need support for years to come. According to a recent National Public Radio report, it generally takes 12 years for an eastern-European family to become self-sufficient. Refugees from undeveloped nations who are often illiterate in their own language, will likely require a much longer period to become self-sufficient.” (page 11)
- Refugees are settled in the US at a rate of 17.85 per 100,000 but in NH at a rate 2.5x higher at a rate of 43.17 per 100,000

The bottom line: refugee resettlement in Manchester was a disaster 20 years ago, and nothing has changed - the situation has gotten worse, not better.

Cites:

- https://www.manchesternh.gov/portals/2/departments/city_clerk/agendas_and_minutes/BMA/2006-07-11_Meeting_Agenda_with_attachments.pdf
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/26/us/manchester-new-hampshire-seeks-halt-in-refugee-resettlement.html>

Costs: use of welfare

The report "Refugee Resettlement in New Hampshire: Pathways and Barriers to Building Community" on page 15, tables 3 and 4 show how much refugees use taxpayer funded and other welfare services.

Community Food Pantries

- 33.3% of refugees use food pantries; 14.5% have - a total of 51.3% total

SNAP / EBT / “Food stamps”

- 36.8% of refugees are on SNAP; 14.5% have been - a total of 51.3%

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

- 25.5% of refugees are in section 8 housing with another 2.1% previously - a total of 27.6%

Medicaid

- 27.6% of refugees in NH are on Medicaid; 63.2% have been on it previously - a total of 90.8%
- \$6,897 per person per year
<https://cis.org/Report/High-Cost-Resettling-Middle-Eastern-Refugees> footnote 15

Public housing

- 10.6% of refugees in NH are in public housing; 4.3% have been in it previously - a total of 15.0%

Unemployment

- 4.3% of refugees in NH are receiving unemployment benefits; 6.4% have been on it previously - a total of 10.7%

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) / Food Stamps

- 53.2% of refugees with another 42.6% previously on - a total of 95.8%

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

- Around \$500–\$800 per month for a family of three to four for up to a year (\$10,000 total value)
- No statistics available on what percent get it

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- up to \$1,883 per month for a family of five, for 5 years (\$100,000 total value)
- No statistics available on what percent get it
- <https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/new-hampshire/N-H-Admin-Code-SS-He-W-602.05>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Up to \$1,183 per month
- No lifetime limit (up to \$500,000 total value)
- cite: <https://snapusda.com/new-hampshire-snap-eligibility-calculator-2026/>

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

- Four month program, designed to cover refugees while they are enrolled in Medicaid
- Cite: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/mam_html/html/263_07_rma_eligibility_criteria_mam.htm

Refugee Social Services (RSS)

- \$3,000 per refugee / year
- <https://acf.gov/orr/policy/dear-colleague-letters/24-13>

Job Corps

- Cost:
 - \$49,770 per enrollee
 - \$80,285 per student year
 - Total cost: \$187,650
- <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20250425>

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program

- Cost: \$10,000 per enrollee
- <https://masshireboston.org/wp-content/uploads/MassHire-Boston-WIOA-Policy.pdf>

Head Start / Early Head Start

- Early Head Start: covers children from birth to age 3 (and often includes pregnant women's prenatal services).
 - \$20,294 per year
 - X 3 years = \$61,000 per child
 - X 2.4 children = \$122,400 per family
 - Cite: https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/6b4fa8b4c6e481fdb83cae736c632425/Head%20Start%20Spending%20Per%20Slot%20Brief_Final.pdf
- Head Start: covers children from age 3 up to kindergarten entry (usually up to age 5).
 - \$14,532 per year
 - X 3 years = \$40,596 per child
 - X 2.4 children = \$97,430 per family
 - Cite: same as above

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

- A welfare program administered via the IRS
- Available to refugees
 - Cite: <https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/eitc-central/basic-qualifications>
- \$7,152 - \$8,046 per year for a family with children

Child Tax Credit

- Another welfare program administered by the IRS

- Available to refugees
 - Cite: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/child-tax-credit>
- Up to \$2,200 per child / year (thus \$79,200 for a family with two children over 18 years)

Second order welfare: NGOs

There is an unspoken incentive to import poor dysfunctional people: it creates jobs and profits for certain classes of people and certain organizations. These organizations are funded by government grants, usually tied to the number of people served by their programs.

When we import illiterate low-skill foreigners, these people and groups thrive. When we stop importing them, their funding dries up.

I can think of no better way to illustrate this than by looking over the testimony that was submitted to this committee over the weekend, by the **New Hampshire Immigrant Rights Network**.

Who are these people?

We can find out by reading their IRS form 990s. The short answer is “they’re big businesses - very big”.

- USAHello (EIN 453789421)
 - \$1 M / yr
- Granite State Organizing Project (EIN 470873896)
 - \$1 M / yr
- International Institute of New England (EIN 04-210432)
 - \$17.5 M / yr
 - CEO salary: \$230,000
- National Immigration Law Center (NILC) (EIN 95-4539765)
 - \$24 M / yr
 - Exec Director: Hincapie Marielena \$300,000
 - COO: Bokhari Adnan : \$300,000
 - CCO: Victoria Ballesteros: \$300,000
- American Friends Service Committee (EIN 23-1352010)
 - \$40M / yr
- Catholic Charities New Hampshire (EIN 02-0222163)
 - \$45 M / yr
 - CEO: Thomas E Blonski \$400,000
- Ascentria Care Alliance Inc.(EIN 04-2496563)
 - \$9M / yr
 - CEO: Angela Bovill: \$400,000
- ASCENTRIA COMMUNITY CARE INC (EIN 45-2712474)
 - \$9M / yr

- CEO: Angela Bovill: \$400,000
- ASCENTRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES INC (EIN 04-3566243)
 - \$37M / yr
- CEO: Angela Bovill: \$400,000
- LUTHERAN HOME OF SOUTHBURY INC (EIN 16-1644288)
 - \$17M
 - CEO: Angela Bovill: \$400,000

I get paid \$100 a year for my service. The NH governor gets paid \$146,172. Yet CEOs of many of these NGOs get paid half a million dollars a year... and in order to earn that, they have to keep a constant flow of dysfunctional refugees coming into New Hampshire.

The NGO industrial complex is toxic in many ways, but two are:

- It directs labor out of productive enterprises
- It creates an incentive for NGOs to lobby to preserve and expand social problems (as many of them will be doing today)

Costs: town services

Schools

Refugees use town schools while contributing almost nothing in taxes (because of their low incomes). This imposes a cost of approximately \$17,000 on local taxpayers, and \$4,000 on state taxpayers per student (because of adequacy payments).

Cite:

- <https://www.education.nh.gov/news-and-media/new-hampshires-cost-pupil-continues-upward-trend>

Schools (English as a Second Language)

...but the cost goes beyond that. Because 51% of refugees have poor or no English skill, refugee children are often enrolled in ESL classes, and or classified as “EL”s (English Learners).

Information is hard to get, but one report suggests that ELs cost between 2.2x regular students and 3.0x regular students

cite:

- Equity and Adequacy of New Hampshire School Funding A Cost Modeling Approach AUGUST 2020 (Page 40, exhibit 23)
https://carsey.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2020/09/20-12685_nh_final_report_v10.pdf

...suggesting that refugee children might cost as much as \$60,000 per student per year.

The state gives an extra \$740 to towns per student for students who need ESL

- <https://fairfundingnh.org/special-education-funding-2023/>

...but the rest of this expense lands on local taxpayers.

Indirect Costs: housing crisis

It has been reported that NH has a housing crisis, and is short 23,500 housing units

cite:

2023 New Hampshire Statewide Housing Needs Assessment

<https://www.nhhfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-NH-Statewide-Housing-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

There are somewhere between 5,157 and 7,500 refugees in New Hampshire.

Cites:

- 5,157 refugees
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents2/resettlement-community-fy2011-2024.pdf>
- "more than 7,500 refugees"
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/health-access/operation-us-refugee-admissions-program-new-hampshire>

NOTE: THIS WEB PAGE HAS BEEN EDITED TO REMOVE THIS DATA BUT IT IS SHOWN IN CACHED VERSIONS

At 3 refugees per housing unit, refugees occupy 2,500 housing units ... or 10% of the total housing shortage in the state.

Indirect costs: Crime

In general, immigrants and their descendents in America have crime rates similar to their home countries. Sweden has a lower crime rate than Italy, and Swedish Americans have a lower crime rate than do Italian Americans.

New Hampshire's refugee program is heavily slanted towards bringing in migrants from Africa (40% of all admittees) and against Europe (8%), South America (0.07%).

Unfortunately, Africa has the highest violent crime rates in the entire world.

Acting on a hunch, I did an RSA 91-A request of the Manchester PD asking for country of origin of people arrested and compared this with US Census Bureau data.

Manchester residents born in Africa were arrested for crimes at twice the rate of residents born in the US.

...and we see this routinely in headlines in local news, such as

Regis Babu Irumva escaped felony burglary and sexual assault charges due to plea deals. During the past four years, Irumva has been arrested or summoned in 32 criminal cases...in Concord. According to court and police records...he has been previously charged with felonious sexual assault, indecent exposure-gross lewdness, burglary, domestic violence-criminal threat, disobeying an officer, disorderly conduct, driving after revocation or suspension, simple assault, criminal threatening, criminal mischief, theft, receiving stolen property, driving under the influence, resisting arrest or detention, breach of bail, and warrants as well as driving, possession of tobacco, and possession of alcohol violations.

Bottom line: more refugees mean more crime, including sexual assaults. Sweden, England, Australia, Germany and every other first world country that have admitted refugees have seen this...and New Hampshire is seeing it too.

Cite:

- NH ORR Eligible Population Resettlement by Country of Origin, FFY 2011-2025
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents2/country-origin-fy2011-2024.pdf>
- <https://patch.com/new-hampshire/concord-nh/concord-man-faces-felony-stolen-property-resisting-other-charges>

Indirect costs: displacing Americans from loans and government programs

It is the official policy of the United States government to discriminate against citizens, whites, men, and heterosexuals in various government programs.

This is codified in USC 13 Chapter I Part 124.103 (b)(1)

There is a rebuttable presumption that the following individuals are socially disadvantaged: Black Americans; Hispanic Americans; Native Americans (Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, or enrolled members of a Federally or State recognized Indian Tribe); Asian Pacific Americans (persons with origins from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Japan, China (including Hong Kong), Taiwan, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Vietnam, Korea, The Philippines, U.S. Trust Territory of

the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Samoa, Macao, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, or Nauru); Subcontinent Asian Americans (persons with origins from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands or Nepal); and members of other groups designated from time to time by SBA according to procedures set forth at paragraph (d) of this section.

And (c)

At least one objective distinguishing feature that has contributed to social disadvantage, such as race, ethnic origin, gender, identifiable disability, long-term residence in an environment isolated from the mainstream of American society, or other similar causes not common to individuals who are not socially disadvantaged;

Refugee status qualifies.

Thus every refugee in NH is a “socially disadvantaged person” according to US law.

This status is used in many areas of US law and regulations, including both contracting and SBA loans

Thus every refugee we settle in NH jumps to the head of the line, ahead of American citizens, when applying for an SBA loan or trying to sell products to the US government.

Cite:

- <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/chapter-I/part-124/subpart-B/section-124.1001>
- <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/chapter-I/part-124/subpart-A>

Indirect Costs: Social Trust

There is a shibboleth in the Current Year that "diversity is our strength". The fact is, it's exactly the opposite. The New York Times covered this in an article

NYT: The downside of diversity

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/05/world/americas/05iht-diversity.1.6986248.html>

To quote from it:

IT HAS BECOME increasingly popular to speak of racial and ethnic diversity as a civic strength. From multicultural festivals to pronouncements from political leaders, the message is the same: our differences make us stronger.

But a massive new study, based on detailed interviews of nearly 30,000 people across America, has concluded just the opposite. Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam -- famous for "Bowling Alone," his 2000 book on declining civic engagement -- has found that the greater the diversity in a community, the fewer people vote and the less they volunteer, the less they give to charity and work on community projects. In the most diverse communities, neighbors trust one another about half as much as they do in the most homogenous settings. The study, the largest ever on civic engagement in America, found that virtually all measures of civic health are lower in more diverse settings.

cite:

E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century by Robert D. Putnam

<https://sci-hub.box/10.1111/j.1467-9477.2007.00176.x>

The refugee program in New Hampshire, by bringing in foreigners, lowers social trust, volunteering, and charitable giving.

Long term costs: Politics

Alex Nowrasteh of CATO has done good research showing that immigrants generally - and their second and third generation descendents - are far more likely than heritage Americans to

- consider themselves liberal or extremely liberal (figure 4)
- vote Democrat (figure 2)
- say "government should do more" (figure 7)
- say "government spends too little on welfare" (figure 8)

cite:

The Political Assimilation of Immigrants and Their Descendants, Feb 24 2015

<https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/edb23.pdf>

Another study by Nowrasteh, focused on non-citizens - like refugees.

It showed that first generation non citizens and their descendents are more likely than heritage Americans to

- say that we spend too much on protecting the environment (figure 16)
- say that government should redistribute income (figure 18)
- say that government should give more assistance to the poor (figure 23)
- say that government should increase the number of immigrants "a little" (figure 24)
- say that government should increase the number of immigrants "a lot" (figure 25)

Cite:

Immigrants Assimilate into the Political Mainstream, Jan 19 2017

https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/edb_27.pdf

Thus, encouraging refugees to settle in New Hampshire will alter the long term politics of the state, making it more socialist, more authoritarian, and more redistributive.

Long term costs: population replacement

Fertility

The TFR (total fertility rate) of NH natives is 1.4. This means that the average woman in NH has 1.4 children.

cite:

- CDC National Vital Statistic Report
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr74/nvsr74-1.pdf>

Immigrants, on the other hand, have a TFR of 2.19

cite:

- Analysis of Fertility of Immigrants and Natives, based on data from American Community Survey (ACS) collected by the Census Bureau
<https://cis.org/Report/Fertility-Immigrants-and-Natives-United-States-2023>

Refugees in New Hampshire reproduce at an even higher rate: two-thirds of refugee households had children present and the average number of children per household was 2.4

Cite:

- UNH study, page 26

Addressing claims by the New Hampshire Immigrant Rights Network

IRI position paper

NHIRN cites as footnote 4 a publication from Immigration Research Initiative (IRI), a left-wing, pro-immigration think tank, titled "Refugee Resettlement per Capita: Which States Do the Most?"

NHIRN and the paper claim:

“Refugees are people who the [U.S.] government has determined have a well-founded fear of persecution, have gone through an extensive vetting process, and who have typically waited many years before arriving in the United States.”

The IRI paper provides a footnote for this claim ... which is a position paper from another left-wing thing tank, the Urban Institute. The second paper (“Bringing Evidence to the Refugee Integration Debate”) does not provide any evidence that there is a vetting process, or that it is extensive. It merely asserts such (page 3).

Amusingly, the same IRI paper notes in footnote ‘n’ on page 9 that according to a fourth document from the pro-immigration HIAS NGO, an actually rigorous vetting process could “decimate” refugee resettlement in the US [because most would-be refugees would not actually qualify if their claims were investigated], thus entirely undercutting the NHIRN / IRI claim.

Cites:

- <https://immresearch.org/publications/refugee-resettlement-per-capita-which-states-do-the-most/>
- https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/97771/bringing_evidence_to_the_refugee_integration_debate_0.pdf
- <https://hias.org/statements/new-refugee-vetting-procedures-could-decimate-refugee-resettlement-program/>

CATO study “Immigrant’s Recent Effects on Government Budgets: 1994-2023”

NHIRN cites as footnote 5 a garbage study from CATO, “Immigrant’s Recent Effects on Government Budgets: 1994-2023”

There are dozens of errors I could point out, but I’ll limit myself to two:

First, NHIRN errs because the HB1706 is about refugees, not about immigrants, a much larger category of people with substantially different demographics.

- Sergey Brin (founder of Google) was an immigrant from Russia.
- Elon Musk (founder of PayPal, Tesla, SpaceX) was an immigrant from South Africa.
- Peter Thiel (founder of PayPal) was an immigrant from Germany.
- Andy Grove (founder of Intel) was an immigrant from Hungary.

Comparing a category that contains these people, each of whom has directly or indirectly paid a trillion dollars in taxes, to a refugee program that brings in illiterate Pakistanis who go on welfare is comparing apples and oranges.

Second, the CATO study explicitly says that the military budget is a “public good” (fair, as far as it goes) and thus considers it “free” (already paid for by heritage Americans), and compares immigrant contributions to the US budget using a different methodology than it uses for US citizens.

Cites:

- <https://www.cato.org/white-paper/immigrants-recent-effects-government-budgets-1994-2023>
- <https://www.cato.org/blog/cato-study-immigrants-reduced-deficits-145-trillion-1994>