

attaining additional levels of education, having English proficiency, and accumulating additional years of U.S. residency do not neutralize the negative wage effect of working without legal status.

All else being equal, securing work in higher-wage occupational categories induces significant wage advantages to undocumented workers and neutralizes the negative wage effect of working without legal status. However, undocumented status limits Latin Americans' access to higher-wage white-collar jobs.

3. Working conditions

Undocumented immigrants report working in unsafe conditions at considerably higher rates relative to immigrants with legal status. Moreover, immigrants without legal status also report alleged wage and hour violations at considerably higher rates relative to documented workers.

Lack of access to health insurance is a significant problem for undocumented workers. Only 25 percent of undocumented workers currently employed are covered by health insurance. The most commonly reported reason for not having health insurance among immigrants who are currently employed is that their employer did not offer health insurance or the employer-sponsored plan was too expensive to access.

4. Use of government benefits and economic contributions

The vast majority of undocumented immigrants reported that they, and adults in their household, do not receive benefits under government safety-net programs, despite their low earnings. Benefit utilization is comparably low among immigrants with legal status.

The consumer expenditures of undocumented immigrants in the Chicago metro area generate more than 31,000 jobs in the local economy and add \$5.45 billion annually to the gross regional product. While exact tax contributions were not calculated, the survey data indicates that approximately 70 percent of undocumented workers pay taxes.

The results of this study strongly suggest that attaining legal status would improve the wages and working conditions of undocumented immigrants. Estimating the size of any wage increase and subsequent wage effects as a result of any changes to federal immigration policy, such as legalization or guest-worker programs, is beyond the scope of this study.

The survey was carried out during the 3rd quarter 2001 through 38 community-based organizations, community colleges, social service providers, and churches. This study was made possible by a grant from the Woods Fund of Chicago.

TRAGEDY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a poem written by Ariel Mason, a fifth grader in my Congressional District. Written only a few days after the tragic events of September 11th, Ariel's poem illustrates the depth and immediacy to which the youth of our Nation was touched and changed by that infamous day.

Tragedy

The skies have fallen upon our nation
The horror is overwhelming
We did nothing to deserve such cruelty

Disaster

So many innocent lives lost
To show the shadows of cackling evil
The emptiness is immense

Loyalty

Through the anguishing troubles I will
Stand proudly by the sides of my fellow Americans

And help as I may

To pull this country together once more
Pain

Sheer, pulsing pain

Coursing through the veins of victims
Both physically and mentally wounded
Troubles

Broken hearts weep sullenly
Filled with the shattered endearment
Of their lost companions

Killed by the dark-doings of murderous
Men, so like us, but gruesomely different
Mourning

America's tallest towers

So proud and free
Lost to deadly claws of our invisible attackers
Emotion

We must fight for our proof of innocence
Our dedication to our blessed land
Forever great, throughout all of eternity

Questions

Why? Who could be so terrible?

Only a luring shadow, cold and black as night
Holds our answers

Though stubbornly refusing to share them
Love

Is all we can give

To help our nation through such troubles
To be the best we can

Life ends here for many
And we cherish memories with them
But for us life will continue

Though we carry this ugly burden of a memory

Forever more

Peace

Is our solitary hope

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ariel Mason for so bravely and honestly writing this poem. As we begin to comprehend the extent to which the terrorist attacks of September 11th have affected us personally, we should look to expressions of emotion like Ariel's to help work through our own pain and confusion, and to remind us that in the face of adversity we as a country will persevere through this national tragedy.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month. As we honor the great culture and historic legacy that African-Americans have left to us and to future generations, I would like to recognize the oldest African-American church in Gary, Indiana—First Baptist. On Sunday, February 24, 2002, I will have the privilege and the honor to attend the worship service at First Baptist to show my respect for the spiritual foundation on which First Baptist was founded.

It was during the Industrial Revolution when smokestacks dotted the skies along the south-

ern coast of Lake Michigan that thousands of immigrants looking for a better life and a steady income migrated to Northwest Indiana. Many who came to Northwest Indiana, particularly Gary, were from the South. Several of the migrants who came to Gary brought with them deeply embedded religious beliefs, including a yearning for their own place of worship. This unwavering spiritual foundation led in 1908 to the creation of Gary's first African-American church, First Baptist.

In its earliest days, the first services were held in the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rankins, in Gary, yet baptisms were performed in Chicago. The need to establish a single spiritual home for its growing family of parishioners inspired the decision to purchase a vacant lot on Washington Street in downtown Gary.

In 1917, the church moved to 2101 Washington Street and began to expand its house of worship. The expansion project was completed in 1925. A year later First Baptist church achieved a milestone; they became the first African-American church in Gary to install a pipe organ. Through most of this period of unprecedented foundation and growth, Rev. Hawkins led and guided this congregation. In June of 1944, after 31 years of service, Rev. Hawkins delivered his last sermon, for his health was deteriorating. He died four years later. His successor, Reverend L.V. Booth, took over in July of the same year.

Under Rev. Booth's devout leadership, the number of parishioners continued to grow and the church began its second major expansion project: ten new lots were purchased along 21st Avenue near Harrison Street in 1949. In 1952, during the growth phase, Rev. Booth resigned after eight years of service. However, December of the same year brought forth a dedicated new pastor, Rev. Penn. During his 21-year tenure with First Baptist, he completed the second phase of the building expansion and held a groundbreaking ceremony on May 2, 1954 on 21st Avenue, with Rev. William Jernigan, president of the National Baptist Sunday School, in attendance.

In September of 1955, the parishioners marched from the building at 2101 Washington Street to their new house of worship and current location, 626 West 21st Avenue. In its new home, First Baptist entered an era of renewed community involvement. Under Rev. Penn's guidance, the number of worshippers grew from 1,200 members in 1955 to more than 1,900 in 1972.

In 1973, Rev. Penn resigned and gave his farewell sermon. Since that time, First Baptist has succeeded in its efforts to provide spiritual guidance for the Gary community under the direction of a number of religious leaders, including: Dr. Colvin Blanford; Rev. William Booth; the Rev. Allen Smith; and its current pastor, Rev. Bennie Henson, Sr.

A congregation founded in 1908 to meet the spiritual needs of the African-American community survives today as the city's oldest African-American church. In June of this year, First Baptist will celebrate its 94th anniversary. This is a testament to the positive will, dedication and fortitude of its past and present parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the great cultural and historic legacy of African-American heritage during this month, I ask that you and my other colleagues join me in commending the parishioners at First Baptist and all other outstanding African-American leaders for their