

Immigration

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diseases predate the wave of European immigration through Ellis Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, according to some medical professionals, they are rumors at best.

"There is a long, sad and shameful tradition in the United States in using fear of disease, contagion and contamination to stigmatize immigrants and foreigners," Arthur Caplan, director of the Division of Medical Ethics at New York University's Langone Medical Center, told NBC in a story published July 9.

At the protest, the solution to the crisis seemed clear to many residents: the border should be closed and undocumented immigrants should be returned to their home countries.

"Every other nation on earth controls their borders," said Craig Wilson, a Westchester resident attending the rally.

"You've got to sign the guest book," Wilson added.

Pope agreed, stating that more undocumented immigrants would potentially weaken America's laws.

"It's time for Americans to stand up and become visible if we want to keep our Constitution," said Pope, who was carrying pocket-sized copies of the Constitution with her to distribute.

Pope also agreed with Wilson that the borders should be closed, but added that legal immigration should become more streamlined. She remarked that a friend of hers had to wait seven years to legally become a citizen of the U.S.

"If you want to be a citizen, you shouldn't have to wait that long," said Pope.

This sentiment was echoed by many of the protesters on Saturday, where the consensus was that legal immigrants are still welcome in the United States.

However, the threat that the newest wave of immigrants poses to the country, according to the protesters, needs to be addressed immediately.

"Don't talk about amnesty until you shut the door," said



Protesters held signs voicing opposition to illegal immigration, which caught the attention of motorists and bicyclists passing by the intersection of PCH and Topanga.

Kelly McCue, who came to the protest with three others from Northridge.

"They're saying it'll cost \$4 billion [to care] for the kids," said Jim McCue, who was standing with her. He added, "We could build a pretty good fence for that."

"Hire them to build the fence. Want to stay? Build the fence," responded Kelly.

The protest, which was held on the corner near the parking lot of the Malibu Food Bin and Oasis Imports, drew a somewhat sparse reaction from passing vehicles. While the majority of reactions seemed positive, with a handful of drivers honking horns and giving "thumbs up," there were also a number of lewd remarks and obscene gestures directed at the protesters.

Shoppers at Oasis Imports on Saturday afternoon said they weren't overly concerned about the nearby protest.

"My husband is against it, but I'm sympathetic," said the shopper, who was visiting Malibu from Bel Air. "But I do always



Photos by Julie Ellerton / TMT

Protesters take to the streets Saturday at PCH and Topanga to call for closed borders as the U.S. deals with an immigration crisis.

feel like protesting is not the way to figure it out. They could be doing something else instead of standing around on the corner."

In the eyes of the protesters,

however, it is their civic duty to speak out about closing the border.

"I'm glad people are finally waking up," said Kelly McCue.



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