

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Find ways to support undocumented immigrants

In a recent letter, Ed Nielsen wrote 'As for non-criminal non-citizens, I think you're safe for quite a while, maybe forever. Most citizens realize you're here to make a better life for yourself, that you're contributing to our community, and are no threat to anyone...'

While I applaud your understanding that not all undocumented immigrants are criminals (there's ample evidence that criminality among undocumented immigrants is far lower than among American citizens), I fear that thinking non-criminal non-citizens are 'safe' is naive. For example, in North Carolina you cannot get a driver's license if you're undocumented. This means that undocumented immigrants who drive to work, including all those here in Henderson County working responsibly in our fields, restaurants, construction sites, homes, etc, could be found guilty of class-3 misdemeanors — crimes punishable by jail time and/or fines — and possible deportation once ICE becomes involved.

Out of compassion and realistic self-interest, please ask your North Carolina legislators (Tim Moffitt, Jennifer Balkcom and Jake Johnson) to pass legislation allowing undocumented immigrants to get drivers' licenses. Then let's consider other ways we could support our undocumented immigrants who are 'contributing to our community.'

*Rachel Poller, Hendersonville*