

States Challenge Obama's Immigration Reform

ELTON HO
Copy Editor

From Nov. 20-21, 2014, President Barack Obama announced a series of executive orders, together called the Immigration Accountability Executive Action, that would protect up to five million undocumented immigrants from deportation. Seen as an overstep of presidential authority by Republicans, the plan immediately drew criticism and legal opposition, including multiple lawsuits filed by states, Republican senators and House members. On Feb. 16, one day before the immigration order would have taken place, a Texas federal judge suspended the action indefinitely.

According to the Huffington Post, Obama's execution action would have allowed certain groups of undocumented immigrants to apply for deportation relief, including parents of U.S. citizens and those who came to the U.S. as children. They would have received work authorization and Social Security numbers and be required to pay taxes; citizenship would not have been granted. Obama said that he took action due to the inability of House Republicans to pass any immigration reform and that he would revoke his action if Congress passed a bill he found acceptable, according to U.S. News.

Shortly after Obama's announcement, 12 states, 33 cities and 27 heads of local law enforcement agencies expressed their

support for Obama's plan, according to the American Immigration Council. On the other hand, a coalition of states led by Texas, home to one of the largest undocumented immigrant populations in the country, challenged the president in a lawsuit. The coalition now includes 26 states, mostly states in the Midwest and South, according to MSN News.

According to the American Immigra-

tion Council, Obama's action was within his authority and was expected to aid the nation's economy. Obama's administration and supporters have pointed out that past presidents, including Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, had made similar executive actions protecting un-

documented immigrants, decisions which inspired little controversy at the time, according to the Associated Press.

However, according to the states opposing Obama, the action decision violated Constitutional clauses limiting presidential power. Moreover, the federal judge who blocked Obama's action said that the administration had not followed proper procedure for changing federal laws and that the program would burden states, strain budgets and increase illegal immigration.

"I agree with Obama because he supports the union of families. No one wants to separate families; that's immoral. I came here last year because of family; my grandfather waited 10 years for us," junior Sophia Lo said. "I know when [some immigrants] try to come to the U.S., they have a lot of difficulty [with citizenship]. I don't support immigrants that are illegal, but the [government] should give them time to apply for citizenship."

To oppose Obama's plan, Congressional Republicans had threatened to suspend

funding of the Department of Homeland Security until the issue was resolved, and thus prevent the order from being carried out. However, after a three month impasse, Congress was able to pass a bill that fully funded the department.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Do you agree with states revoking Obama's executive action in order to stop the deportation of over five million immigrants?



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Chalk Art Festival 2015 Decorates Open House

SHELLEY LIN
Staff Writer

Every year, a group of AHS students participates in the Chalk Art Festival to present their art at Open House. This year's Chalk Art Festival had the theme "Heroes" and was held at the quad by ceramics teacher Jayson Pineda.

"I try to make the themes more open so students get involved. It [was] a showcase, not a competition," Pineda said.

Groups of two students tried out by submitting a design. Usually ten teams are picked; however, according to Pineda, due to the amount of passion in their art, he accepted more people.

"I've done [this] every year. I like to stay outdoors and draw

and the theme this year [was] very versatile. We could do superheroes, people in our com-



CHALK OF AMERICA Students show off their creativity as they chalk up local heroes.

MOOR photo by SARA HERNANDEZ

munity or whoever our inspiration is," senior Karla Solis said.

One of the Chalk Art drawings presented the fictional superhero Wonder Woman which

represented women's strength in society, according to senior

Janice Angelica. Another piece of artwork presented a preeminent historical leader of Indian independence, Mahatma Gandhi, who protested nonviolently against British rule in India.

"I thought the chalk art piece of 'Baymax' was unique because it was similar to 3D street paintings. It made it look like the character was actually [coming out] from the ground and [onto] campus," senior Sarah Liu said.

Students worked on their chalk art piece from the beginning of first period until the end of the school day.

"I feel like this year [was] different; those who applied were more detailed. This year's [Chalk Art Festival] had a lot of passion," Pineda said.

Alhambra Street Festival Welcomes Lunar New Year

CINDY LUO
News Editor

With five lions roaring and dancing to open the show, the 24th Annual Alhambra Lunar New Year Street Festival took place on Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Alhambra City holds this traditional community event with the cooperation of [the] Chamber of Commerce, [the] Alhambra Police and [the] Fire Department and support from sponsors. It is good for the immigrants, long-time residents and all ethnic groups to get to know more about Asian culture," event organizer Pinki Chen said.

Following an art exhibit held at the Alhambra City Hall three weeks beforehand, the festival is the second part of the Alhambra City's celebration of the Year of the Sheep. Located at the heart of the most concentrated Chinese commercial district in the San Gabriel Valley, Alhambra City held the street festival on five city blocks on Valley Boulevard from Garfield Avenue to Almansor Street. According to the Alhambra New Year Festival website, about 150 vendors and 25,000 citizens attended the celebration. In total, 250 booths provided different activities, including giveaways, games and foods that are exotic to some who attended but familiar to the majority in attendance.

AHS volunteers have long been part of the event. This year, 40 spots were opened to ASB, Freshman Leadership and service clubs on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although more than the required amount of people signed up, some students who got their spots were spotted not actively working.

"They signed up to work [and] to be helpful, not [to] just enjoy themselves by staying in the information booth hanging out and texting," Chen said. "There is a problem with young people today."

In response to Chen's feedback, volunteer coordinator Phillip Tang also provided his thoughts on improving the volunteer system.

"There needs to be better communication and [fewer] spots available," Tang said. "An entire [position] was taken out last minute, so the volunteers working for the job became floaters. Most of the jobs were just people sitting around. 40 volunteers was way too excessive for the event."

Overall, the event itself was well-attended and received positive reactions from citizens.

"We strive to bring in new, interesting elements every year for the celebration so people who attended will keep returning and start off their new year in a fresh manner," Chen said.

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