

Rouzer's Karma ran over his Dogma

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 11.11.2021

In his [10/26 newsletter](#), Congressman David Rouzer deplores labor shortages while demonizing immigrants, unwittingly illustrating the proverb “you reap what you sow.”

The US is experiencing a historic [labor shortage](#). For months, Republicans like Rouzer blamed [extended unemployment benefits](#). The numbers [prove him wrong](#). The NC Commerce Department [reports](#) that the expiration of benefits two months ago did not force people back to work. Inc. Magazine reports that the labor shortage is [only getting worse](#). Why?

The pandemic hit after years of [declining birth rates](#), just as many Baby Boomers [retired](#). COVID also caused many workers to quit low-paying service jobs as safer, better jobs became available. But the biggest drop in the labor market has been among [working mothers](#), who quit their jobs because they [cannot find affordable child care](#).

Child care and service jobs are often [filled by immigrants](#). But the Trump administration, with the support of Republicans like Rouzer, effectively [brought legal immigration to a halt](#). The conservative [Cato Institute documents](#) how Trump gave us the worst immigration outcome possible: “Trump was wildly successful in reducing legal immigration”, but [“oversaw the collapse”](#) of illegal immigration enforcement.

[Nasdaq.com](#) calls the reduction in legal immigration “the biggest reason for the labor shortage.” Bloomberg.com reports that [China will surpass America](#) as the world's largest economy if we don't increase legal immigration. That's why both the [Cato Institute](#) and the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) have called on Congress to raise limits on legal immigration. [Rouzer and Republicans](#) have turned their backs on our immigrant heritage and refused.

By denying reality, ignoring our needs, and clinging to anti-immigrant dogma, Republicans like Rouzer are depriving us of the very people we need to help meet our labor shortage and [compete with China](#). As John Lennon said, “Instant Karma's gonna get you.”

Mike Rush
3rd Vice Chair, Brunswick Co. Democratic Party
Leland