

From coast to coast, immigrants say 'we need to be heard'

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By Judy Keen and Martin Kasindorf, USA TODAY



Supporters of immigrant rights *boycotted* businesses and schools or attended rallies in more than 40 states, closing businesses from Providence to San Diego and drawing protesters to rallies from Anchorage to Atlanta. The protests, called "A Day Without Immigrants" or *el gran paro* — "the big stop" — were meant to disrupt commerce and highlight the U.S. economy's reliance on immigrant workers.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched in Los Angeles and Chicago. Supporters in New York City formed human chains on sidewalks to protest a bill passed by the House of Representatives that would make illegal immigration a felony. Thousands more filled Manhattan's Union Square.

In L.A., the wholesale produce market and *garment* factories closed, ports were quiet, and traffic eased. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa estimated up to 400,000 people participated in two marches. The Los Angeles Unified School District, which is 73% Hispanic, said 27% of middle- and high-school students were absent.

Some companies closed in anticipation of worker absences. Perdue Farms closed eight of its 14 chicken processing plants, Goya Foods halted deliveries, and Tyson Foods shut 12 of 100 plants. Casinos in Las Vegas stayed open. Julie Craven of Hormel Foods said the company's 22 plants were open and had fewer absences than on a typical Monday.

There were some counterdemonstrations. About 200 people — some with signs that read "What part of illegal don't you understand?" — were in Centennial Park in Fort Myers, Fla. In Denver, about 50 people gathered to object to illegal immigration. Annette Palmer, 49, said she lost her telemarketing job last summer because she couldn't speak Spanish and refused to take lessons. "I can't even get a job now at McDonald's because they want bilingual," she said.

About 4,500 people participated in a rally in Atlanta. The crowd was much smaller than the estimated 30,000-40,000 who attended a march April 10. Armado Topete, 45, lost about \$2,000 by closing his bridal shop in Norcross, Ga., for the day. Topete, a U.S. citizen, said it was important to speak out for other immigrants. "We pay taxes," he said. "We do everything for this country. We want respect."

Half the 1,600 hourly workers at Tanimura & Antle, a vegetable grower in Salinas, Calif., took the day off. "We sat down with everybody and talked to them and supported them in what they wanted to do," said Ken Silveira, company president. Manuel Cunha, president of the Nisei Farm League, which represents 1,000 growers in California's Central Valley, said some could be hurt. "One day will not destroy a business," he said. "But one day could hurt a business because of trying to pick up lost time."

Hundreds of students at White Plains (N.Y.) High School walked out after their first class and marched to the courthouse. "It's the right thing to do," said Nayal Howard, 18. At Elementary School 96 in Indianapolis, where more than half the students are Hispanic, about a quarter of students were absent. Students at George Washington Community School there wore white T-shirts, the unofficial uniform of the protesters. David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center in Merrifield, Va., had five landscaping crews at work instead of the usual 60. "The ultimate impact of not having that labor force was tremendous," he said. "If it lasted any length of time, we'd be in trouble." In Bonita Springs, Fla., some immigrant laborers gathered as usual, hoping for work. "If we don't work, we don't eat," said Rodriguez Lopez, 44. In Storm Lake, Iowa, some Tyson Foods workers complained about the plant's closure. "Mexicans were in the hall shouting, 'Yeah, we did it! But I'll be out \$130 because of it. Why am I losing money?'" said Robin Book, 49. In Phoenix, protesters gathered at Home Depot and Wal-Mart stores to form human chains. Trinidad Monge, 52, said she closed her beauty shop to "help people get their papers to work legally." Gilberto Villasenor of V and V Supremo Foods in Chicago gave his 200 workers the day off with pay. "We need to be heard," he said.

1. Thoroughly explain the purpose of "El gran paro."
2. Construct a United States map and annotate the impact of "El gran paro" on ALL of the cities above?
3. In 2005, Los Angeles Unified School District reported approximately 741,283 students. How many Hispanics?
4. Compare and contrast the percent of plants shutdown between Perdue Farms and Tyson Foods
5. Who is Annette Palmer? Explain her dilemma. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
6. What was the percent of change between the estimated protesters at the Atlanta rally on April 10 and May 1st?
7. In paragraph, explain your personal feelings towards immigrants in the United States.
8. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least seven ways using the "**Reading Across The Curriculum**" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.

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9. In paragraph form, list at least five ways using guidelines from the "**Writing Guidelines**" will make you a stronger and more convincing writer; specifically, on The Daughtry Times.
10. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *boycotted*, *commerce*, *garment*.
11. In paragraph form, explain five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.