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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**JAMES N. TEDISCO  
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August 2, 2023

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
New York State Governor  
NYS State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I'm writing to express my concern for the migrant children and families seeking asylum who have been used by the Mayor of New York City as pawns on a chessboard. Upstate communities such as Rotterdam and Colonie are now facing a new unexpected financial burden that is being placed on local taxpayers and school districts to enroll scores of new students that New York City is bussing to municipalities across the state.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Super 8 Motel in Rotterdam, with little to no advance notice, evicted its current tenants, many of whom received social services, and received about 250 asylum seekers including 68 children who were bussed up without any communication from the Mayor of New York City. The 68 children will be enrolled in the Mohonasen School District come September.

Many of these children will need English as a Second Language teachers and may require other special education services to help them learn. The Superintendent of Mohonasen told the *Times Union* that it is "unprecedented" for so many children to enroll this late in the summer, "especially so many students who will need help learning the U.S.'s main language." While schools are happy to welcome these students, there is concern about the unplanned long-term costs associated with educating them.

Let me be clear, I support immigration and a path to citizenship, and I have tremendous compassion for the those who seek to live in freedom and liberty in our great country. Sadly, we currently have paralysis on the part of the federal government who have failed to secure the border and enact common sense immigration policy. This is coupled with a total lack of leadership by the Mayor of New York City.

It's wrong what the Mayor is doing in shuffling these individuals off to Upstate communities without communicating with the municipalities first. This new policy being developed by the Mayor of New York City is not solving a problem, it's exacerbating it. Now we need your attention to help ease the potential avalanche of new costs associated with welcoming these individuals.

I respectfully request your intervention in this situation by developing and announcing a plan to reimburse school districts for the unexpected costs associated with enrolling migrant students that have been bussed in from New York City. I would appreciate your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Tedisco".

James N. Tedisco  
44<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District