



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

At this critical moment, as we prioritize the safety and well-being of all residents, we are compelled to speak out about the pressing issue of New York State's self-imposed status as a sanctuary state and the resulting impacts of illegal immigration on our communities. As elected representatives, we demand what has been conspicuously missing – a commonsense approach to preserving the integrity of our communities.

By executive order, and without any legislation, you designated New York a sanctuary state. Coupled with New York City's designation as a sanctuary city, the result has been an unprecedented influx of migrants into New York. As a direct result of this misguided policy, you declared a state of emergency, marshaled over two billion dollars in taxpayer funds for the effort, and even mobilized the National Guard. By the very definition of "emergency," you clearly understand that the lives and well-being of our residents are at great risk. Yet, despite all this, despite the daily news reports of our communities being overwhelmed, despite the thousands of hard-working New Yorkers who now raise their voices in protest, you refuse to take the most obvious course of action: to rescind our sanctuary status, enforce our laws, and call upon President Biden to secure our border.

In fact, rather than embrace this common sense approach, you vilify the very constituents – our constituents – who bring their concerns and anxieties to you. In what is clearly a textbook example of political disconnect you refuse to take on the extreme members of the Democrat party and instead, foist the burden of their failed policy onto our children and families. You ask struggling taxpayers to fund it, residents to absorb tent cities with thousands of unvetted migrants, and our already underfunded schools districts to absorb the overflow under threat of prosecution. All this while ignoring the needs of our most vulnerable New Yorkers who still live on our streets.

The billions of dollars that have been spent thus far and many billions more that will certainly be spent going forward on this irresponsible stance comes at the expense of every single New Yorker who must look elsewhere for the help they require. Their much-needed resources are being siphoned off for what is a self-created disaster. You and the legislative majority bear responsibility for diverting funds away from our schools, veterans, seniors, special needs populations, and everyday working New Yorkers who are struggling to make ends meet.

But our answer is a resounding “No!” We will continue to fight these failed initiatives at every turn. We will continue to fight because we know that repairing this situation will only begin when we stop the flow of migrants into our state. And you know that too.

New Yorkers are among the most generous people in the world, time and again opening their hearts and wallets to help our neighbors. We maintain one of the most expansive safety net programs in the country and routinely embrace the call to aid the less fortunate, but this political folly places the city and our state on the verge of insolvency. You are well aware that New York is now looking at years of deficits and that continuing on this erroneous course makes that fiscal abyss that much deeper. It must end and it will only end when you rescind your executive order declaring New York a sanctuary state and call upon President Biden to secure the border.

New York City’s leaders chose to be a sanctuary city, putting out a welcome mat for every migrant who arrives in the country. They chose virtue signaling over good government policy, and so must bear the consequences. That in no way affords you or Mayor Adams the luxury of transferring the impacts of your failed policies onto our suburban communities.

Once the sanctuary state designation is reversed and President Biden is made aware that New Yorkers demand a secure southern border, we will work with you to develop solutions, but they will not include transferring migrants into our suburbs. At that time, we hope you will work with us to ensure that New York remains a beacon of safety, security, and common sense.

Sincerely,



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District

Handwritten signatures of Senator Dean Murray and Senator Alexis Weik in black ink.

Senator Dean Murray
3rd District

Senator Alexis Weik
8th District

Handwritten signatures of Senator Steve Rhoads and Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick in blue ink.

Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District

Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District

Handwritten signatures of Senator Jack Martins and Senator Andrew Lanza in black ink.

Senator Jack Martins
7th District

Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District