



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

February 1, 2024

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

The crisis taking place at our nation's borders is unlike anything we've experienced in our lifetime. Leaders across the country, from both sides of the political aisle, recognize that America is facing an emergency that shows no sign of slowing down. Three years of inaction and failed policies by the Biden Administration have brought us to this breaking point.

More than 8 million border encounters have occurred since President Biden took office. In 2023, over 2.5 million migrants entered the country through the southern border. In December alone, 302,034 encounters were reported by [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#). On New York's Northern Border, 91,640 illegal crossings were reported in the past year.

Immigration reform is a matter that must be dealt with on the Federal level. However, we hope you agree that the states' sovereign right to protect its citizens and its communities must be valued above the actions of federal authorities. For this reason, we urge you to deploy the National Guard immediately to assist the State of Texas and New York Canadian border in efforts to stop the flow of migrants coming into our country illegally.

In 2006 and 2007, Army National Guard troops were sent to assist US Border Patrol in four states along the southern border as part of Operation Jump Start. In fact, I, Senator Ort, was stationed and served in Nogales, Arizona during this time, demonstrating a clear precedent for this action.

As you know, the state of New York has felt a direct impact from President Biden's open border policies. More than 160,000 illegal migrants are currently in New York. To date, taxpayers have spent \$1.9 billion to manage the crisis and are being asked to spend an

additional \$2.4 billion over the next fiscal year. New York City Mayor Eric Adams estimates costs associated with the migrant influx will climb as much as \$10 billion by 2026.

However, this is far more than a financial issue. Earlier this month, James Madison High School students in Brooklyn were forced to stay home while their school was used as a temporary shelter for migrants. In your recent proposed Executive Budget, you are reducing school aid at a total statewide loss of \$412.9 million. The migrant influx has compromised the ability of localities to provide services and restricted access to programs for New Yorkers seeking essential assistance.

Our constituents and colleagues are demanding action, leadership and results in response to the migrant crisis. An effective response is long overdue. We encourage you to use your authority to deploy the National Guard at the Texas and New York Canadian borders and help advance legislative measures that directly address concerns brought on by the migrant crisis. We must urge President Biden to finally secure America's borders.

Sincerely,



Robert Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader
120th District