



June 24, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

As the security situation in Israel remains fragile due to the conflict with Iran, we write with deep concern for the thousands of New Yorkers currently residing, studying, or traveling in Israel, many of whom are now stranded.

Yesterday's announcement by President Trump of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran gives us hope that the worst may be behind us. Still, there may be Israelis abroad who wish to return home.

New York is home to the largest population of Jewish Americans in the United States, with over 1.6 million Jewish Americans calling New York home. We are proud that so many New Yorkers maintain deep cultural, familial, and spiritual ties to Israel. At a time of danger, we must do everything in our power to protect them.

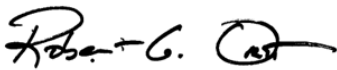
We respectfully urge you to take immediate action and organize emergency flights to bring stranded New Yorkers home safely. With Israeli airspace closed and commercial travel disrupted, New York must do our part to get our residents home to safety.

Other states have already taken action. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, for example, has deployed wide-body planes to Cyprus to bring 1,500 Jewish Americans back to the United States after they were evacuated from Ashdod by sea. The Florida government's coordination with nonprofit groups and emergency management teams offers a blueprint New York can and should follow.

New York's connection to Israel is unmatched, and so is our responsibility. Our state should lead in standing with Israel, supporting Jewish communities under threat, and providing help to New Yorkers caught in harm's way.

We urge you to act without delay by mobilizing state resources to assist in the evacuation of New Yorkers from Israel. The Senate Republican Conference stands ready to work with your administration and all relevant partners to ensure the swift and safe return of our fellow New Yorkers during this critical time.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



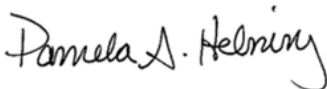
Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



Senator Dan Stec
45th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Steve Chan
17th District



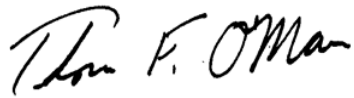
Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Tom O'Mara
38th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District