



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

August 19, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State
Harry S. Truman Building, C Street Lobby
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken:

New York has always been committed to being an inclusive and welcoming state for immigrants and refugees. While the situation in Afghanistan unfolds, we write to you as elected officials from New York State saying we will welcome asylum seekers and refugees from Afghanistan and stand ready to support them when they are here. We also encourage you to act urgently to make sure that those still on the ground who are at risk and eligible for protection pathways are evacuated expeditiously.

There are fantastic organizations doing resettlement work across the state that can provide them with the assistance and services they need. These agencies have been instrumental during the past year in the support of thousands of refugee families living in New York with heightened needs of healthcare, education, employment, technological support, and translation/interpretation services. Our state is among the best equipped to take in and support these families.

In 2017, as a response to the previous administration's withdrawal from these vital programs, New York stepped up and created the New York State Enhanced Services to Refugees Program (NYSESRP). This program has served as a model for other states. We are well equipped to tackle these challenges through the NYSESRP. With additional federal aid to New York, to support the estimated 30,000 eligible refugees needing to be evacuated from Afghanistan, our State can help your administration quickly address this crisis and save lives.

As the Biden Administration and Department of State continue to address these pressing issues, we hope you will consider New York as a new home for those who have assisted our efforts overseas for the past twenty years and who deserve the safety our country can provide.



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Sincerely,

Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senator, District 22

Brian Barnwell
New York State Assemblymember, District 30

Brian A. Benjamin
New York State Senator, District 30

Alessandra Biaggi
New York State Senator, District 34

Neil D. Breslin
New York State Senator, District 44

Samra Brouk
New York State Senator, District 55

Catalina Cruz
New York State Assemblymember, District 39

Chris Burdick
New York State Assemblymember, District 93

Kenneth Burgos
New York State Assemblymember, District 85

Robert Carroll
New York State Assemblymember, District 40

Sarah Clark
New York State Assemblymember, District 136

Jeremy A. Cooney
New York State Senator, District 56

Inez E. Dickens
New York State Assemblymember, District 70



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Jeffrey Dinowitz
New York State Assemblymember, District 81

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
New York State Assemblymember, District 34

Patricia Fahy
New York State Assemblymember, District 109

Richard N. Gottfried
New York State Assemblymember, District 75

Nathalia Fernandez
New York State Assemblymember, District 80

Michelle Hinchey
New York State Senator, District 46

Mathylde Frontus
New York State Assemblymember, District 46

Brad Hoyleman
New York State Senator, District 27

James F. Gaughran
New York State Senator, District 5

Robert Jackson
New York State Senator, District 31

Michael Gianaris, Deputy Majority Leader
New York State Senator, District 12

Jonathan G. Jacobson
New York State Assemblymember, District 104

Deborah Glick
New York State Assemblymember, District 66

Kimberly Jean-Pierre
New York State Assemblymember, District 11



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Anna M. Kaplan
New York State Senator, District 7

Jennifer Lunsford
New York State Assemblymember, District 135

Brian Kavanagh
New York State Senator, District 26

John W. Mannion
New York State Senator, District 50

Dr. Anna R. Kelles
New York State Assemblymember, District 125

Rachel May
New York State Senator, District 53

Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, District 63

Shelley B. Mayer
New York State Senator, District 37

Liz Krueger
New York State Senator, District 28

John T. McDonald, III
New York State Assemblymember, District 108

Charles D. Lavine
New York State Assemblymember, District 13

Steven Otis
New York State Assemblymember, District 91

John C. Liu
New York State Senator, District 11

Jessica Ramos
New York State Senator, District 13



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Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
New York State Senator, District 38

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New York State Senator, District 18

Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator, District 33

James Sanders, Jr.
New York State Senator, District 10

Jonathan Rivera
New York State Assemblymember, District 149

Luis R. Sepúlveda
New York State Senator, District 32

Linda B. Rosenthal
New York State Assemblymember, District 67

José Serrano
New York State Senator, District 29

Nily Rozic
New York State Assemblymember, District 25

Jo Anne Simon
New York State Assemblymember, District 52

Sean M. Ryan
New York State Senator, District 33

Al Stirpe
New York State Assemblymember, District 127

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
New York State Assemblymember, District 1