

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



GEORGE M. BORRELLO
SENATOR
57TH DISTRICT

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May 18, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor
New York State
Executive Chamber
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

In light of the news that upstate SUNY campuses are being considered as temporary migrant housing, I am writing to urge you to suspend this plan immediately out of concern for the strains on security and resources that such an influx would have on these campuses and the surrounding communities.

I am especially opposed to SUNY Fredonia being chosen as a migrant housing location. Our community does not have the resources that would be required to underwrite the costs of housing, feeding and meeting the many needs that immigrants will require. Our rural upstate social service network is already overburdened by the services required by our own community members.

New York City, a self-designated 'sanctuary city', does not have the right or the authority to send economic migrants to other counties in the state without the proper funding, coordination and approval of those counties. Additionally, these migrants have not been properly vetted by U.S. immigration authorities and pose a risk to public safety.

It is important for our state and federal governments to acknowledge their role in creating this crisis and take responsibility for this disastrous outcome.

New York's immigration crisis is the result of its 'sanctuary state' status and policies like the 2020 Green Light Law granting non-citizen, undocumented migrants the ability to get a driver's license. New York's Green Light law bars federal authorities from accessing New York's motor vehicle database to enforce U.S. immigration policies and laws. The Green Light Law and its sanctuary status have made New York State the perfect place for undocumented immigrants to settle and avoid deportation.

At a time when New Yorkers face an affordability crisis and we lead the nation in outmigration, the last thing we should do is add to the burden of hardworking taxpayers and business owners by handing them the bill for resettling migrants who came here illegally.

My constituents do not support New York's sanctuary status designation or policies and should not be punished by Washington's unwillingness to protect our nation's borders or bad policies adopted by Albany or New York City.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to discuss this issue with you in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George M. Borrello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George M. Borrello
Senator, 57th District

Cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor, New York City