

May 17, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to express our concerns regarding the recent transporting and housing of migrants around the state.

Last week, your administration issued an Executive Order that declared a State of Emergency due to the expected surge of migrants into New York State following the expiration of the Title 42 Order by the Biden Administration.

While we welcome the overdue realization by New York's elected officials that the situation at the Southern Border is an emergency, we are gravely concerned by the lack of transparency around the placement of migrants throughout our state. For this reason, we request your administration provide more details to the public to keep New Yorkers informed about where migrants are being housed and where monies are being spent.

As you know, this year's State Budget provided \$1 billion for costs related to the migrant crisis for New York City - \$741 million for shelter costs, \$162 million for the National Guard, \$137 million for health care, \$26 million in public assistance and \$25 million for relocation of families to permanent housing. As we continue to receive reports of migrants being relocated from New York City to other parts of the state, we would like to know who is paying for their transportation, housing and services. Specifically, we would like to know how long migrants will be housed for, where specifically they will be housed, how much is being paid for their housing, and what services they are receiving and for how long.

We also request that information about potentially moving migrants is communicated from you or your administration directly to the municipalities. With that, local elected officials should have the option to decline hosting migrants in their communities should they not have the necessary accommodations and other resources. This local option is imperative to ensuring local municipalities are held harmless and are adequately prepared.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this critically important matter. We look forward to receiving more information from your office as soon as possible. If you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Ortt Senate Minority Leader 62nd District

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Senator Peter Oberacker 51st District

Senator Tom O'Mara 58th District

Senator Anthony Palumbo 1st District

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