Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2023

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

The Honorable Eric Adams
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams,

We write today in response to disturbing reporting indicating New York City has requested migrants, legal and illegal, adult and minor, be housed at nearly two dozen state owned facilities, including military bases, State University of New York (SUNY) campuses, and vacant prisons.[1] We strongly oppose the use of state owned facilities to house migrants who have been left on the streets due to New York City's mishandling of the migrant crisis— a crisis it and the Biden Administration helped create. To help get to the root of the problem, we urge you to immediately rescind all sanctuary city policies and actively work with all levels of law enforcement to enforce America's immigration laws.

For decades, New York City Officials, who have implemented sanctuary city laws, have exacerbated the Biden Administration's open-border migrant crisis. Even today, New York City has consistently refused to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and share citizenship status, arrest data and addresses.[2] As a result— and of no surprise to any reasonable person— more than 100,000 migrants have come to New York City seeking shelter.[3] Prior to getting to New York, some of these migrants crossed the border illegally. Others have crossed while making an asylum claim. Yet, according to data, more than 70% don't actually qualify for the asylum they claim.[4] Regardless, none of the migrants have been properly vetted.

Now, New York City has requested migrants be housed at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, Pilgrim Psychiatric Center in Brentwood, and Kings Park Psychiatric Center in Nissequogue River State Park. Additionally, New York City has requested migrants be sheltered at State University of New York campuses and vacant prisons throughout the state.[5] While New York City Officials have chosen to embrace sanctuary city policies, suburban officials like the ones in our districts have not. As such, suburban counties like the ones we represent must not be forced to incur the financial and public safety burden caused by the policy choices of New York City Officials. *You broke it, you pay for it*.

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[1] https://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/immigrants-homeless-gabreski-pilgrim-kings-park-repswzzt
[2] https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03218#:~:text=City's%20Restrictions%20on%20Immigration%20(ICE,effect%20on%20 December%2014%2C%202014.
[3] https://ny1.com/nyc/brooklyn/politics/2023/08/23/city-sees-surge-in-arrivals-as-communities-protest-shelter-placement
[4] https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1060936/download

[5] https://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/immigrants-homeless-gabreski-pilgrim-kings-park-repswzzt

When there are no consequences to breaking or manipulating immigration laws, you get the migrant crisis you see in today's New York City. This will continue until you and the Biden Administration make it clear there will be consequences at the federal, state, and local levels for illegally entering into the United States.[6] We must be a nation of laws.

We are also a nation of immigrants– one that believes fiercely in the American Dream. Legal immigration is a part of the American fabric. In fact, many of the undersigned's recent ancestors came to this country in the early 20th century and worked difficult blue collar jobs which helped New York's and America's prosperity. With this personal experience in mind, we firmly believe everyone must come to the United States through the proper legal channels. Any municipality that publicly states, as Mayor Adams has for New York City, that they will not enforce immigration laws on the books is actively encouraging illegal immigration.[7]

Instead of re-assessing the negative impact of its sanctuary policies, New York City has decided to point fingers and place the blame on those municipalities for their lack of cooperation and forcibly displace migrants to other surrounding areas like the ones we represent. New York City's actions are hypocritical and a disservice to hardworking, lawfully abiding New Yorkers and the very migrants who have come to New York City with the expectation they would be welcomed with open arms.[8][9]

For the reasons stated above, we strongly oppose the use of any state owned facilities in our districts to house migrants due to New York City's mishandling of the migrant crisis. Additionally, we urge you to immediately rescind all current sanctuary city policies and enforce all immigration laws, including allowing ICE to coordinate with the New York Police Department and other New York City officials to do their job. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Nick LaLota
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress

Nick Langworthy
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Membef or Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress

[6] https://www.politico.com/news/2023/07/19/new-york-city-has-run-out-of-room-for-migrants-for-real-this-time-00107107

[7] https://twitter.com/ericadamsfornyc/status/1450967702093320203?lang=en

[8] https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/395-23/city-new-york-sue-30-new-york-counties-illegally-walling-off-their-borders-asylum

[9] https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/09/eric-adams-new-york-migrants-cost-00110472