



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo and Santabarbara introducing legislation to address resettlement of migrants

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO August 1, 2023

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New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-C-Rome, announced today that he has introduced legislation (S7616) that will improve communication, accountability and transparency when it comes to the resettlement of migrants in New York.

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Rotterdam, will be introducing companion legislation.

The legislation comes after New York City, without advanced notification or consultation, sent buses of migrants to resettle in hotels in communities throughout the entire state. This action has burdened many communities, strained resources and has resulted in the displacement of poor and indigent individuals who were residing in certain hotels and already struggling with poverty.

The key provisions of Sen. Griffo and Assemblyman Santabarbara's bill will require the municipality transferring the migrants to engage in thorough consultation with the governor and the municipal chief executive of the directly affected local jurisdictions no later than 30 business days before the planned relocation.

It also will require the original municipality that funds or directs the relocation of the migrants to provide a monthly report to the community where the migrants have been relocated. These detailed reports, which will be accessible to the public on a government website, will include the total number of migrants transported from the original municipality, demographic details about the individuals transported, resources provided to the individuals and information related the processes for screening these individuals.

“Local governments across the state were blindsided by the arrival of illegal migrants from New York City. These communities do not have the resources to properly care for this influx of people,” **Sen. Griffo said.** “This legislation will ensure that municipal authorities are given advanced notice regarding the potential resettlement of migrants within their borders and that they have the pertinent information they need so that they are not left in the dark.”

“As a legislator committed to the well-being of all New York State residents, I am introducing this important bill to require transparency on the migrant crisis. Recent events, like the ill-coordinated actions taken by NYC Mayor Adams resulting in the abrupt eviction of Rotterdam residents in Schenectady County, have highlighted the need for improved communication and accountability among government officials,” **Assemblyman Santabarbara said.** “This legislation seeks to establish guidelines that mandate advance consultations between state and municipal authorities before any migrant resettlement or relocation takes place. Transparency and accountability are essential in addressing this critical issue, fostering open dialogue, and finding sustainable solutions that prioritize the well-being of all residents, especially those facing poverty and hardships. I urge my fellow lawmakers and community members to support this crucial legislation, as it will enable better cooperation and understanding among New York State communities on vital matters.”

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