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January 3, 2024

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

RE: Migrant Housing Issues

Dear Governor Hochul,

In the last two years, New York State has spent an exorbitant amount of tax money – more than \$4.3 billion to house, feed, and provide other benefits to immigrants entering our state from all over the world. Your administration opened its arms to tens of thousands of unvetted individuals who have entered our state - with the promise of housing and daily needs on the tax-payers' dime. These individuals, who entered our state and settled in New York City due to its sanctuary city status, were then bussed to Western New York communities where promises of funding and supervision were made.

This week, families, including children, were left standing in the cold as DocGo NYC, the agency charged with housing migrant families, ended its contract with Jewish Family Services. Asylum seekers staying at Western New York hotels will soon be vacated and the non-profit agency Jewish Family Services is working to relocate these individuals and families to permanent housing throughout the community. It appears that the promises of supervision and funding by New York City are now no longer being kept, and instead, the task of caring for these undocumented individuals are now being placed on the residents of Western New York.

This is a problem that has been created and exacerbated by your administration, yet now, Western New York residents will be stuck with the bill to care for these individuals as New York City withdraws from its obligations pertaining to this issue.

For these reasons, we would like to know how much the new housing situation will cost local taxpayers, whether residents in existing facilities will be notified that migrants are moving in and who is responsible for keeping track of the individuals who are due for asylum hearings.

Additionally, please provide a comprehensive, step by step procedure that was used to vet the migrants both incoming and already residing in Western New York, including which agency was responsible for that process, what steps your office took to verify those procedures and protocols were in line with best security practices and what oversight was enforced to ensure that dangerous individuals or criminals were not a threat to residents or other migrants.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and we look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Robert G. Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
62<sup>nd</sup> District



George Borrello  
Senator  
57<sup>th</sup> District



Paul Bologna  
Assemblyman  
144<sup>th</sup> District



Patrick Chludzinski  
Assemblyman  
143<sup>rd</sup> District



Angelo Morinello  
Assemblyman  
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