



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

May 22, 2023

Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State St.
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

We write to express our concerns regarding the recent transporting and housing of migrants from New York City to around the state, and the taxpayer dollars being used to do so.

Last week, the Hochul 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. Subsequent to that order, the Mayor of the City of New York, has been transporting migrants to multiple locations outside of the City.

While New York City has chosen to be a sanctuary city and has been more than willing to accept the influx of migrants from the southern border crisis, few other municipalities in the State have made such designation. As such, the rest of the State should not be subjected to the inability of New York City to provide care to these individuals.

Furthermore, we are gravely concerned by the lack of transparency around the placement of migrants throughout our state and the public expenditures backing those actions. For this reason, we request your office provide more details to the public to keep New Yorkers informed about the approved payments to the City of New York and a specified list of who the payments are going to and for what purpose.

The FY 24 Enacted Budget included \$1 billion for reimbursement of 29 percent of the costs related to the migrant crisis for New York City as follows:

- \$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.

The appropriation language for the largest amount of funding reads as follows (S.4003D/A.3003D – Aid to Localities Budget Bill – Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance):

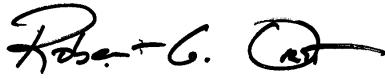
“Funds appropriated herein shall be used to reimburse 29 percent of expenditures incurred by New York City for providing humanitarian aid, including short term shelter services to migrant individuals and families, including costs associated with humanitarian emergency response and relief centers for individuals entering short term shelter on or after April 1, 2022. Such reimbursement shall be available for costs incurred by New York City on or after April 1, 2022 and before April 1, 2024, and claimed by August 15, 2024 unless such claiming deadline is otherwise extended by the office of temporary and disability assistance. Such reimbursement shall not be duplicative of any reimbursement otherwise received including reimbursement for safety net assistance, family assistance or emergency assistance. Such funding shall be provided in accordance with a plan submitted by New York City, and approved by the office of temporary and disability assistance and the director of the budget ...”

As you can see, the language requires that payments not be “duplicative” of other payments from other funding sources which makes it clear that a multitude of State resources can be used to address the migrant crisis. Therefore, it is critical to have a full accounting of all State expenditures, their sources, as well as their purpose which must be transparent and available to the public.

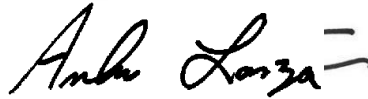
As we continue to receive reports of migrants being relocated from New York City to other parts of the state, the citizens of the State of New York have a right to know who is paying for their transportation, housing and services. Specifically, we ask that every dollar spent on these actions be made public by your Office similar to the tracking of COVID-19 funds that were updated monthly on your agency website.

Thank you for your time and consideration of 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,



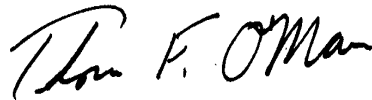
Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



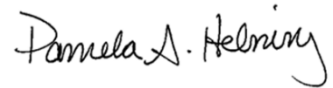
Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



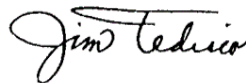
Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



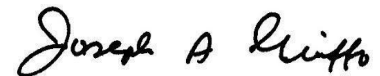
Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District

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Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District

Handwritten signature of Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick in black ink.

Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District