

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



May 13, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

Your Friday, May 12 request to federal officials for additional resources to manage the ongoing humanitarian emergency in the Hudson Valley was a welcome sign that federal, state, and local officials may still be able to resolve this crisis before it gets worse.

We represent thousands of individuals, families, and businesses in Rockland and Orange counties directly in the path of the migrant arrivals. Currently there are dozens of migrants, mostly men, occupying hotel stock in Orange, with an indeterminate number scheduled to be bused in from New York City to seek housing and other services in the coming days and weeks. With the Centers for Disease Control's Title 42 directive ending on Thursday, May 11, US customs officials expect a tsunami of asylum seekers and migrants along the southern border at places other than established ports of entry. In our view, a lack of effective federal planning and communication together with New York City's dramatically short-sighted relocation policy have pushed local governments to the edge.

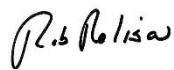
The US immigration system is broken. If we ever hope to salvage from its ashes a viable alternative that supports a commonsense policy while protecting the rights of Americans who already live here, we need a more transparent system, full stop. To have New York City, state, and federal officials talking past each other is unacceptable and raises the odds of a humanitarian disaster involving hundreds, perhaps thousands, of human beings seeking opportunity and a better life. As of this writing, neither of our offices has received a briefing from your staff nor any state office associated with refugee resettlement or immigration. This lack of transparency erodes our constituents' trust in their state government and its ability to safeguard local communities in a fast-moving emergency.

If New York City has indeed, as you write, "exceeded capacity in its shelter system," why wasn't additional aid made available to Upstate governments earlier to manage the migrant overflow? What is the short- and long-term plan to shelter the approximately 20 homeless US veterans who were displaced from their housing to accommodate the migrants? When will our counties be provided with an actionable timeline of services and resources flowing to the affected Upstate communities?

Lastly, what assurances do Rockland and Orange counties have from your administration and the NYC Mayor's Office that their local governments will not be forced to subsidize police services and other relocation costs after potentially hundreds of migrants exceed their four-month period of temporary housing in these communities without acquiring a work-authorization permit or equivalent labor certification? In a transparent decision-making setting, these questions and more would have already been addressed; sadly, we are not acting within that system -- yet.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this humanitarian crisis. For the sake and well-being of all involved, we have to get this right. We are ready to work with our State and Federal partners to ensure a timely resolution to the unfolding events in the Hudson Valley.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Rolison  
New York State Senate  
39<sup>th</sup> District

Bill Weber



New York State Senate  
38<sup>th</sup> District