

ALBANY OFFICE
504 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NY 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-2991
FAX: (518) 426-6737

ROCKLAND OFFICE
163 AIRPORT EXECUTIVE PARK
NANUET, NY 10954
PHONE: (845) 623-3627
FAX: (845) 425-4617

E-MAIL
WEBER@NYSENATE.GOV

WEBSITE
WEBER.NYSENATE.GOV

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



SENATOR BILL WEBER
38TH SENATE DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

BUDGET AND REVENUE
DISABILITIES

COMMITTEES

CONSUMER PROTECTION
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS
EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 15, 2023

Contact: Mort Becker; mbecker@nysenate.gov

845-623-3627 ext. 1661

SENATORS WEBER AND ROLISON DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY AND URGENT ACTION TO ADDRESS HUDSON VALLEY HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Senators Bill Weber and Rob Rolison penned an urgent letter to Governor Kathy Hochul, demanding accountability and urgent action from New York State to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Hudson Valley. Representing thousands of individuals, families, and businesses in Rockland and Orange counties, the Senators expressed their deep concern over the lack of effective response and coordination from federal, state, and local officials.

In response to Governor Hochul's recent request for additional federal resources, Senators Weber and Rolison cautiously acknowledged the gesture but emphasized the need for immediate action and concrete results. They underscored the gravity of the situation faced by their constituents and the urgent need for all parties to work together to alleviate the burden.

Drawing attention to the circumstances in their communities, Senators Weber and Rolison highlighted the occupancy of hotel accommodations in Orange County by dozens of migrants, predominantly men. They condemned the misguided relocation policy of New York City, which has forced local governments to scramble and potentially jeopardize the safety and well-being of their constituents.

Senators Weber and Rolison unequivocally stated that the US immigration system is broken and needs transparency and reform and criticized the poor planning and communication between New York City, the Governor's office, and Federal officials, which has exacerbated the crisis and increased the likelihood of a full-blown humanitarian disaster affecting hundreds or thousands of individuals seeking a better life.

Expressing their disappointment, Senators Weber and Rolison highlighted the absence of briefings from Governor Hochul's staff, or any state office associated with migrants'

resettlement. They emphasized that this lack of transparency has eroded the trust of their constituents in their state government's ability to address emergencies swiftly and effectively.

With a clear intent to hold the government accountable, the Senators posed crucial questions regarding the delayed allocation of aid to Upstate governments to manage the overflow of migrants and the failure to provide a clear short and long-term plan for accommodating displaced homeless US veterans. Senators Weber and Rolison demanded an immediate and actionable timeline for providing essential services and resources to the affected communities.

Furthermore, Senators Weber and Rolison expressed grave concerns over the potential financial burden on local governments. They demanded assurances from Governor Hochul's administration and the NYC Mayor's Office that local governments would not be unfairly forced to subsidize police services and other relocation costs once migrants exceed their four-month temporary housing period without obtaining work authorization.

The Senators underscored the urgency of the situation and reiterated their commitment to working diligently with their state and federal partners to ensure a swift and effective resolution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of their constituents.

###