



## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3222

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write in deep concern over the crisis at our Southern Border and the growing migrant crisis in New York. Under your and President Biden's leadership, our nation has seen an unprecedented rise in illegal border crossings. This lawlessness has resulted in chaos across many border communities and the entire nation as communities are not equipped to handle the relentless flow of often unvetted migrants. This is especially apparent in New York where the arrival of migrants is continuing to worsen an ever-deepening fiscal crisis, threatening our communities' ability to provide essential services, and harming care for our most vulnerable. In response, I ask that you provide us additional details on federal involvement in migrant resettlement and how the federal government is vetting migrants and paying for this resettlement.

The Biden Administration's dereliction of its duty to enforce our immigration laws and enforce border security has created a crisis at our Southern Border. Under the Biden administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehensions have topped 5.6 million<sup>1</sup>, more than double the total number of encounters under Trump Administration. Of these migrants, nearly 100,000<sup>2</sup> have arrived in New York City since the spring of 2022, with an additional 2,700<sup>3</sup> arriving in the past week. As a result, the city and state have tried to resettle a portion of these migrants in smaller communities<sup>4</sup>, which do not have the capacity to care for this size of a migrant influx. Recent criminal incidents have renewed concerns from these smaller communities about whether these migrants have been adequately vetted.<sup>5</sup> It is vital we ensure all criminals are expeditiously deported and not being supported by taxpayer dollars.

All these resources have come at an enormous cost to New York taxpayers. According to the Empire Center, New York State is currently forecasted to face a substantial \$9.1 billion budget deficit next year.<sup>6</sup> This is not even including the \$1 billion<sup>7</sup> in additional funding Governor Hochul has stated the state will have to spend on the migrant crisis. If these migrants continue to flood into the state, New York taxpayers will pay the price with either higher taxes or steeper cuts to essential services.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/article/nyc-migrant-crisis-explained.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/17/nyregion/hochul-migrant-crisis.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://nypost.com/2023/08/11/hochul-adams-close-to-deal-to-move-1200-migrant-families-out-of-nyc/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://nypost.com/2023/08/13/ny-erie-county-denies-nyc-migrants-amid-sex-assaults-by-buffalo/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/the-bill-arrives-ny-faces-9b-budget-gap-next-year/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/10/nyregion/perez-migrants-james-hochul.html?smid=tw-share>



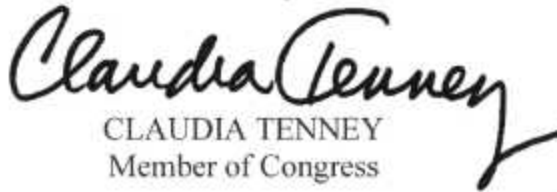
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In response to these concerns, I ask if you can provide answers to the following questions by Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

1. What is the federal government's involvement transporting migrants from the Southern Border to New York State?
2. If the federal government is transporting these migrants, how is the federal government funding this action?
3. How are these migrants being vetted, if at all?
4. Have any individuals been denied entry into the United States based on a criminal conviction found during the vetting process? If so, how many?
5. What is the Biden administration doing to end the influx of migrants over the Southern Border?

It is vital we are aware of all efforts the federal government is taking to fuel and exacerbate this migrant crisis, as well as to vet those coming across the border. I will appreciate your quick response to these questions and hope to work with you to reverse the disastrous immigration policies of the Biden Administration.

Sincerely,

  
CLAUDIA TENNEY  
Member of Congress