

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2024

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of the State of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

We members of the New Jersey Delegation in Congress write to you in hopes of working together to address the growing humanitarian crisis that has been foisted upon New Jersey from a number of Southern Governors.

Since April of 2022, Governor Greg Abbott of Texas has sent tens of thousands of migrants who have crossed the United States' southern border on one-way buses to cities far away from his state. Governor Abbott's motivation for busing is purely political as he exploits the lives of those escaping from hardship and turmoil. He and other governors who have sent people north are doing so without the care of the individuals in mind.

Despite the actions of those leaders, it is our solemn duty as Americans to do what we can to ensure that we help those fleeing from conflicts, wars, and disasters. On December 27th, New York City Mayor Eric Adams placed limits on how migrants can arrive in the city, including an order that bus companies need to provide "32 hours' advance notice of the arrival" of buses carrying migrants. Since then, there has been an increased number of buses stopping in New Jersey to bypass the executive order, including dozens of buses from Texas and Louisiana carrying hundreds of migrants since the executive order went into effect. We know that Governor Abbott and other governors will not stop this political stunt.

As members of the New Jersey Delegation in Congress, we want to ensure close coordination between all federal, state, and local partners to navigate this situation. Our priority is to ensure humanitarian needs are taken care of and our state and local officials have the proper resources at their disposal as more migrants arrive. We are ready to work with you to address the humanitarian crisis and would like to ask the following questions:

- Have you or your Office received any communications from Governor Abbott or any other Governors who have bussed immigrants to New York City? If you have had conversations, have they offered to provide any resources or coordination as to how they send migrants northward?
- We are aware you have been having conversations with New York City officials, local New Jersey officials, and officials from the Biden Administration. Would you be able to provide us with an update on those conversations and how we can play a supporting role as needed?
- What resources are currently available to local officials to handle the influx of migrants arriving in the state? What new resources are being made available by your Administration to ensure we have a whole of government coordinated effort to handle the influx of migrants?
- For those migrants staying in New Jersey, what resources are being provided to help the municipalities? How are non-profit organizations getting involved?
- For those migrants continuing their travels to New York City, what has NJ Transit's role been in assisting individuals into the city?

We would like to receive responses to these questions within a week to help us better understand the scope of the situation. We would also like to request a meeting with your Office to discuss the plan moving forward on how to handle the incoming buses. As always, we appreciate you answering our questions and your leadership. We look forward to working together in partnership as we navigate this challenging situation.

Sincerely,



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress



DONLAD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



ROBERT J. MENENDEZ
Member of Congress M.C.