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August 2, 2023

Honorable Letitia James  
Attorney General of New York State  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Attorney General James:

We are writing to you in our capacity as Albany County Legislators and concerned citizens of Colonie, New York. As you may know, Albany County became a location of migrant resettlement from New York City on Memorial Day weekend earlier this year. Since then, multiple hotels and motels in our County have contracted with New York City to house more than 500 migrants.

Conditions in some of the facilities housing migrants were recently called into question. Separate reports indicate [there are migrant-accompanied children](#) in at least one of these facilities, something that is deeply troubling. In addition, a [Schenectady County hotel was reported to have 68 children](#), and school district officials were not allowed to speak with children and their families. We believe these reports – and the questions they raise – warrant an investigation by your office.

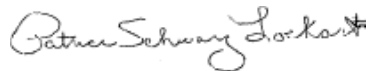
Section 3205 of the New York State Education Law requires that “in each school district of the state, each minor from six to sixteen years of age shall attend upon full time instruction.” At least fifty of the migrants at the Colonie hotel are children, a number of whom are likely eligible for school. Any potential failure to educate these children represents a breach of New York State law and our humanitarian obligations as a state.

Aside from schooling concerns, we have general concerns about the lack of transparency of the New York City program, and the wellbeing of these children. [We were appalled by a recent story in the New York Times](#) which suggested poor treatment of migrants by the New York City-contracted vendor responsible for their care, DocGo. The article describes a number of issues, ranging from verbal and physical threats to bad documentation and false promises. This article raises significant concerns in our community. It also raises doubts about the legal and ethical morality of this New York City-run program.

In addition to the potential repercussions from a lack of education, we are worried these children may not be receiving services commensurate with their basic dignity. It is incumbent upon investigatory authorities such as your office to check on their basic welfare.

Requirements for the provision of education, as well as sound humanitarian treatment, are not just a moral obligation in New York State; they are the law. We are deeply disturbed about these reported conditions, and we ask you to investigate those conditions as expeditiously as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patrice Schwarz Lockart  
Albany County Legislator, District 26



Frank A. Mauriello  
Albany County Legislator, District 27  
Minority Leader

**Cc:**

Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County Executive