

ANDREW R. GARBARINO
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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND
SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
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December 7, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

I write to follow up on the letter I sent to you on October 19, 2021, expressing my grave concern with reports that your administration is flying unaccompanied minors into New York as a result of the ongoing surge of migrants at our southern border.¹ Late last week, local news reported that two law enforcement officers were injured when responding to a disturbance at MercyFirst—the location of about 50 recently transferred unaccompanied minors on Long Island.² One officer suffered a concussion and the other had a broken hand. This assault on law enforcement is absolutely disgraceful and should not be tolerated. I am determined to obtain additional information about the perpetrators of this attack, and I intend to introduce legislation to ensure assault of a law enforcement officer is considered a deportable offense.

At the time of your administration's covert flights of unaccompanied minors in October, it was reported that about 50 migrants were recently transferred to MercyFirst children's shelter in Syosset, NY, and a total of about 2,600 unaccompanied minors had been relocated to Long Island over the past year.³ In my previous letter, I requested information about who these people are, what their security vetting and COVID-19 screening status is, and how local resources will be impacted. Almost two months have passed, and I have yet to receive a response from your administration. I remain troubled by the potential security and health risks that these migrants pose to Americans in my district.

I am extremely concerned about the safety and security of our local law enforcement officers and my constituents. This assault on law enforcement is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the negative ramifications of your irresponsible border policies. Your weak immigration policies have also resulted in an increased threat of gang violence to my constituents. MS-13 has taken advantage of vulnerable unaccompanied minors in my district and will continue to exploit the cracks in our nation's immigration system unless changes are made. We must secure our border to ensure Americans are safe in their own communities.

I am once again demanding transparency from your administration about the placement of migrants in New York and across our country. Your administration is fueling the current crisis by placing vulnerable children in these situations without a plan and without transparency to state and local stakeholders. I request a briefing on what your administration has done thus far with regards to migrant relocation on Long Island, and what you intend to do moving forward in light of these growing concerns about public safety and security in my district and in communities across the United States.

Sincerely,



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security

¹ <https://twitter.com/RepGarbarino/status/1450796445796274176>

² Two Nassau cops hurt in melee at MercyFirst group home in Syosset: https://www.newsday.com/long-island/crime/mercy-first-melee-cops-hurt-1.50441461?utm_source=appshare

³ Nearly 2,600 unaccompanied migrant youths relocated to LI in past year, officials say: <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/unaccompanied-minors-migrant-youths-syosset-1.50395025>