

H.R. 3941, SCHOOLS NOT SHELTERS ACT

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BACKGROUND

- **The Biden administration's open border policies have turned every state into a border state.**
- New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced plans to house asylum seekers in up to 30 current and former public schools with free-standing gyms.
- Governor Kathy Hochul identified three SUNY campuses to shelter up to 1,500 migrants in dorms over the summer. SUNY Chancellor John King, former Obama Secretary of Education, confirmed the university system's commitment to supporting Governor Hochul.
- Placing migrants in schools and on campuses brings an unnecessary problem to the steps of educational facilities that administrators simply are not equipped to handle—nor should they have to.

THE PROBLEM

- **Schools are dealing with an influx of illegal immigrants and facing difficult questions about how to allocate resources** because the Biden administration has failed to secure the border.
 - At its height in May, the average number of unauthorized entries soared to 10,000 per day.
 - In El Paso, a surge of 1,500 illegal immigrants required the city to spend \$300,000 daily, or nearly \$10 million, last September alone.
- Schools should be focused on helping students recover from devastating pandemic-era learning loss. We know that children are suffering in the wake of the pandemic; math and reading scores have plummeted to their lowest levels in years.
- Using school gymnasiums as housing for illegal aliens may impede children's access to safe recreation and physical education, may force children to spend their entire school day with little exercise, and may disrupt the ordinary routines of the school day.



BIDEN'S OPEN BORDER POLICIES

THE PROBLEM

- Hosting illegal immigrants on school campuses poses a significant safety risk to school children and compromises schools' ability to secure their own campuses.
- At the university level, resources are equally limited, and campuses are open year-round. At the most basic level, housing migrants would require additional electricity, water, security services, technology services, and transportation.
- For public universities, the costs to house migrants on campuses would be borne by the taxpayers, but for private institutions costs must be paid from university reserves or passed on to students through tuition increases. Either way, this proposed solution to the Biden administration's immigration problem hurts students and citizens.

THE SOLUTION

- H.R. 3941 prohibits the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter or housing for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States.
- Placing migrants in schools and on campuses perpetuates the belief that the Biden administration's open border policies are normal—but housing the surge of migrants in educational facilities should not become the standard just because the federal government has seen fit to create an immigration crisis.
- H.R. 3941 sends a full-throated message to New York City, the Biden administration, and local leaders across the country that the safety and education of students should not be subject to their pro-illegal immigration whims.

BOTTOM LINE:

Educational facilities should be used for educating, not housing illegal immigrants. The academic success and safety of students must be put first.

