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Written Statement for the Record

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Nassau County, New York

Before the Committee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology  
United States House of Representatives

Thank you Chairman D’Esposito, Ranking Member Carter, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology for holding this hearing and allowing me the opportunity to address you regarding “Protecting our Preparedness.”

I especially want to thank Chairman D’Esposito for all you do to keep our community safe, our country safe, and the world a safer place for Americans.

Nassau County is home to almost 1.5 million people. We are larger in population than 10 states. Our gross domestic product is larger than 144 nations in the United Nations. In Nassau County, we have every race, every religion, and every ethnic group. In many respects, we are a snapshot of America.

In Nassau County, we have made a determination that we do not want to take part in the misguided migrant program. Nassau County is not a sanctuary county. This decision was not made lightly. The residents of Nassau County understand some of the humanitarian arguments made during this migrant crisis. The one thing that is clear from my constituents is that they want our borders secured. They want to know who is coming into America. They want anyone coming into America to be properly vetted. They want only immigrants who share American values.

The current situation where virtually everybody is allowed to reside in America by merely claiming asylum status is an untenable situation for many reasons.

First of all, there is such a large amount of migrants crossing the border that many migrants do not get fully vetted and may not receive an asylum hearing for as many as two years or more.

In essence, people are roaming around the United States for two years without any determination on whether or not they truly are entitled to asylum status.

Asylum status has always been a consideration for individuals from other countries whose life and freedom was in jeopardy based on either their political beliefs, religious beliefs, or ethnicity.

It is inconceivable that millions of migrants who have crossed our borders seeking asylum qualify as truly eligible for asylum status. As we have seen around America, municipalities have become burdened with the responsibility to clothe, feed, house, and educate migrants, as well as provide social services without any cogent federal program to regulate or pay for these individuals.

In Nassau County, we have seen a surge in crime by migrants who have engaged in all types of criminal activity, from drug dealing, car theft, and burglary to more violent crimes.

Recently, a gang from Chile was arrested by our outstanding Nassau County Police Department, only to be released without bail due to state laws that give more rights to criminals than victims.

These Chilean gang members who were a part of this migrant program were set free by liberal bail laws, disappeared, and may be here in the United States committing more crimes against the public. That is outrageous and dangerous! The federal government should mandate that any migrant in the US who is arrested for a crime with probable cause be deported.

Our police officers also arrested someone who was in our country illegally for transporting over 3 kilos of pure fentanyl that was smuggled across the border illegally, to Nassau County. This amount of fentanyl was enough to kill almost all of Long Island's almost 3 million residents. If we are serious about ending the heroin and opioid epidemic that is killing our kids once and for all, the first step is securing our borders!

In Nassau County, many leaders of school districts, especially in minority communities, have expressed their opposition to migrant and sanctuary programs as they cannot accommodate the large influx of new students that they have not budgeted for. Nassau County residents are not heartless; most of our residents are immigrants or relatives of immigrants. We believe in an immigration program that makes sense but not open borders. I would urge this committee and the other members of Congress to consider a common-sense approach to immigration.

1. Seal the borders.
2. Nobody should be let into this country seeking asylum until they have been adjudicated in a hearing to be eligible.
3. There should be an organized guest worker program that allows for legal immigration for the purposes of working so long as those immigrants are eligible to be gainfully employed, free of any criminal or subversive background, and stay out of trouble while they are here in the United States.

We have seen in many communities in the United States the current disaster created by the present migrant policy. This is fixable only if we revert to traditional American values, defend our borders, and apply a common-sense approach to immigration.

Once again, I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee for your time and attention to this very important issue.