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ANGELICA GUERRERO-CUELLAR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 22ND DISTRICT

Feb. 1, 2023

Illinois Department of Human Services
Grace B. Hou, Secretary
401 S. Clinton St. 6th floor
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Secretary Hou,

Thank you for your time and attention to the migrant issues affecting our state, like many across the country. I appreciate your collaboration as we work together to safely welcome and integrate migrant families in Illinois.

As you know, I've been deeply involved in helping migrant families safely settle into my district on the Southwest Side of Chicago and surrounding area. Since their arrival, I've been working closely with families to help them find housing, clothing, and support to start their new lives.

Unfortunately, I do not believe the proposed migrant shelter location at 71st Street and Pulaski Road is ready to safely house 658 migrants. Many questions remain about whether the facility is prepared to serve as safe housing for this many people. I believe it is important that we pause opening the proposed site as we work to resolve these issues.

I understand the state has already decided to push back the original opening date of Feb. 9, and I support that decision. However, I believe we need to pause its opening until we can fully address concerns about the building, which requires upgrades, construction, and security to serve as adequate housing. As you know, some of my previous questions include:

1. What is the project timeline for construction of the shelter?
2. How long will migrants be living in the shelter? What is the plan to move them?
3. Who is the lead partner for the ICH oversight?
4. What type of security will be provided at the shelter?
5. If the IDHS & ISBE will not be providing funding to CPS, how will resources be provided to students?
6. To what level will IDHS coordinate with local municipalities and townships to provide resources for migrant families?

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Please know I remain committed to working with you to safely welcome migrants to our state and my district. I believe it's important to step up for these young families who are yearning for a new beginning. It's similar to my own story as a daughter of immigrants.

Thank you for considering my request. I am available to discuss a plan moving forward at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Angie Guerrero-Cuellar

Rep. Angie Guerrero-Cuellar
22nd District