



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2021

Mr. Eugene Sperling
American Rescue Plan Coordinator
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Sperling:

Given your appointment by President Biden to ensure fastidious oversight of the recently enacted \$1.9 trillion spending bill—funded with American taxpayer dollars—we would like to draw your attention to reports that New York recently included in their state budget a new \$2.1 billion fund to provide direct checks of up to \$15,600 exclusively available to illegal immigrants.¹

The \$2.1 billion price tag of this fund is quite peculiar. The \$1.9 trillion spending plan enacted last month allocated monetary relief to states using a new biased formula that resulted in New York, and other states run by Democrat officials, receiving disproportionately more aid than in previous coronavirus relief bills. As you recall, prior to the passage of the recently enacted bill, a bipartisan group of 22 governors expressed concern with this formula change because it punished states with healthy state budgets and strong economies.² Coincidentally, the amount of additional federal dollars New York appears to be receiving because of the change in the funding distribution formula is exactly the same as this new fund for illegal immigrants – \$2.1 billion.

Unfortunately, the \$1.9 trillion spending bill included language prohibiting states from using these funds to offset tax relief they might wish to provide their citizens. However, despite concerns raised by Congressional Republicans, it did not explicitly limit the potential use of American taxpayer dollars to prioritize illegal immigrants over American families. It now appears that New York is using its state budget, recently bolstered with billions in federal dollars, to funnel money to illegal immigrants.

President Biden appointed you to ensure there is appropriate oversight of the massive spending included in the law enacted last month. Given the questions raised by the actions of the State of New York, we sincerely hope you will use your position to protect the integrity of American

¹ “\$2.1 Billion for Undocumented Workers Signals New York’s Progressive Shift,” The New York Times, April 8, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/08/nyregion/covid-relief-undocumented-workers-nyc.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>.

² “22 Governors Oppose Biased Fund Allocation in Stimulus Package,” February 27, 2021, <https://governor.sc.gov/news/2021-02/22-governors-oppose-biased-fund-allocation-stimulus-package>.

taxpayer dollars and put American families first. Please provide a response regarding whether you intend to review these actions by Friday, April 16. We look forward to hearing from you about this matter as well as your plans to keep us regularly informed about how the rest of the \$1.9 trillion spending bill is being used.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget



James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform

cc: Andrew Cuomo, Governor, State of New York
Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor, State of New York
Thomas P. DiNapoli, Comptroller, State of New York
Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly
Andrea Stewart-Cousins, President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader, New York State Senate
Michael E. Horowitz, Chair, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee and Inspector General, Department of Justice