

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

February 23, 2026

Dear Governor Hochul,

In a Politico article published on February 18, 2026, your spokesperson claimed you have never received a request to speak directly with members of the delegation. That is not true. In fact, it is a provable lie. We sent you a letter in February 2024 inviting you to Washington, D.C. for that exact purpose. Your office ignored the request.

Moreover, since becoming governor in 2021, you have made no serious efforts to work with the New York Republican congressional delegation, and instead have spent your time engaging in public attacks and a corrupt effort to gerrymander our congressional map on three separate occasions in a failed attempt to make Hakeem Jeffries Speaker of the House.

With that said, let this letter serve as an official invitation for you to come to Washington, D.C. for the express purpose of meeting with the New York Republican congressional delegation to discuss among other topics: healthcare, energy, housing, transportation, public safety, immigration enforcement, state spending, and congressional redistricting.

In regards to healthcare, and your office's attempt to mislead the public, let's be clear: you personally attended none of the meetings referenced in the Politico article, and members were not invited to any of these "discussions". These were routine staff-level emails and "briefings" dressed up after the fact as high-level engagement. That is not leadership; it's spin.

Despite your absence and total lack of engagement, New York House Republicans continue to deliver for our state. We worked with CMS Administrator Dr. Oz to extend the MCO Tax without any assistance from your office or House Democrats. This came after we organized a Hudson Valley roundtable for Dr. Oz to meet with healthcare executives on this issue. Your office was invited to participate and declined.

We also negotiated the quadrupling of the SALT cap during a series of meetings on Capitol Hill, at the White House, and at the Treasury Department. Meanwhile, every New York Democrat voted against the higher SALT cap on the House floor. As a result of our work, the average New Yorker will see a roughly \$4,000 tax cut.

Most recently, we secured lifetime funding for the World Trade Center Health Program. Again, every House Democrat from New York voted against this policy that will benefit 9/11 first responders and survivors across the state.

Meanwhile, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has demanded you either raise taxes by \$9 billion or he will raise property taxes by 9.5% and fleece the retiree health fund to pay for his multi-billion budget deficits.

New York is hemorrhaging taxpayers and your response is to spend more. Since you became Lieutenant Governor in 2015, state spending has increased by over \$100 billion. Additionally, since Mike Bloomberg left office at the end of 2013, New York City Democrats have increased city spending by over \$40 billion and now have a city budget larger than the state of Florida.

Since you last met with us in February 2023, New York has continued its downward spiral under your failed leadership. In fact, our state has faced one crisis after the next, and in many cases, stronger coordination between Albany and Washington could have mitigated the damage. Instead, New Yorkers have been left to shoulder the consequences of continued mismanagement and a lack of effective collaboration at the highest levels of government.

Beyond the healthcare issues you selectively highlight, we've had urgent challenges related to Medicaid/CDPAP, immigration, crime, taxes, infrastructure, congestion pricing, and more. These are the issues that matter to New Yorkers. They deserve a Governor who takes the time to speak with their members of Congress and who will work alongside them for the benefit of our state.

Again, we urge you to schedule travel to Washington, D.C. as soon as possible to meet with the New York Republican congressional delegation. As the only New Yorkers working in the majority in Washington, we have a real opportunity to affect policy change. As shown with the MCO tax and the SALT cap, we are both willing and able to do exactly that. The question is whether you will do your part as well.

Placing your trust and our state's needs in Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries has been wasted energy and effort. Time and again, the issues most critical to our state have gone unresolved, while opportunities to secure real progress have been missed. Continued reliance on ineffective leadership is not a strategy, and New Yorkers deserve far better.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your urgent reply.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
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