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## **Thank you Governor Abbott! Sending NYC Busloads of Migrants Helps Strengthen our City's Economy**

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While Texas Governor Abbott may be making himself a hero to conservatives in his own state, and around the country, by sending busloads of migrants to New York City, appealing to powerful anti-immigrant sentiment on the US Right, in fact, by doing so, he may be helping our great city recover from the economic damage it endured during the COVID Pandemic.

First of all, migrants will help fill the labor shortage in the city's service and hospitality industries that has opened up as tourists have started to return to New York City. The city's hotels and restaurants have always depended on immigrant labor to fill entry level positions, and a new group of people willing to take those jobs will help these businesses provide the service their customers expect.

Secondly, migrants will continue to energize outer borough neighborhoods where immigrant enterprise is the driving force in economic development. No better example of this can be found than in the Bronx, where neighborhoods first devastated by disinvestment and arson, and then by the crack epidemic, have been filled with new housing and new enterprises, many of them owned by new immigrants. In the Bronx's Little Yemen, Little Bangladesh, and in its many neighborhoods filled with immigrants from Africa, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and the Anglophone Caribbean, there are literally thousands new stores, restaurants, and auto and home repair businesses that have been opened by people from those countries in the last thirty years.

Immigration has not been a burden on the New York City economy, it has been a gift to the city and its people.

So Governor Abbott, keep sending those busloads of migrants our way. New York City has always welcomed the heroism it requires to cross borders, leave everything you have known before, and try to find a better life in a challenging new land. No one works harder and better than migrants and asylum seekers, and no one is more appreciative of the opportunities they are given.