

From: [Arellano, Joey](#)
To: [FLHouseDems](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Florida State Representatives and State Senators Ask United States DOJ and DOT to Hold Governor Ron DeSantis Accountable
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Florida State Representatives and State Senators Ask United States DOJ and DOT to Hold Governor Ron DeSantis Accountable

Florida Lawmakers Send Letters to Federal Officials Requesting Investigations into Ron DeSantis' inappropriate use of public dollars to transport migrants under false pretenses.

MIAMI – Members of the Florida Legislature are requesting that both the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Transportation immediately launch an investigation into possible criminal and civil rights violations of federal law based on Gov. Ron DeSantis' use of public money to traffic and coerce asylum seekers to travel from Texas to Massachusetts.

The Florida governor boasted about transporting 50 unsuspecting individuals by plane to Martha's Vineyard on Wednesday, Sept. 14, including families with children. Based on local reporting and interviews with those directly impacted, agents acting for the DeSantis Administration traveled to Texas to mislead and lure these asylum seekers into boarding buses and planes coordinated by the Governor's Administration. They were promised jobs, a place to live, financial resources and more. Some migrants reported being told they were going to Boston and were shocked when they were unceremoniously dumped in Martha's Vineyard like cargo, and without any support.

Asylum seekers were given fake addresses, which directly interferes with their ability to communicate with federal immigration officials about their legal claims. When asked by the media how individuals were identified to be targeted and lured into this scheme, Governor DeSantis said that migrants are "profiled" as individuals who are likely headed to Florida.

State Representative Anna V. Eskamani (D-Orlando), who is still dealing with relief efforts in her District, said, "The DeSantis Administration and those it worked with to implement this inhuman and potentially illegal act must be held accountable, especially as Governor DeSantis says he plans to continue profiling and trafficking asylum seekers who present themselves at the southern border."

State Representative Dotie Joseph (D-Miami), who is also an attorney, noted, "Not only is

all of this morally wrong, but there are serious legal concerns around fraud, kidnapping, human trafficking, deprivation of liberty, and violations of human and civil rights, including 18 U.S.C. § 241 and § 242.”

You can view the letter to the Department of Justice [here](#) and the letter to the Department of Transportation [here](#).

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