



CHARLES D. LAVINE  
Assemblyman 13<sup>th</sup> District

CHAIR  
Judiciary Committee

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Codes Ethics & Guidance  
Rules Insurance

April 17, 2026

Jeremy C. Kohomban  
President & CEO  
The Children's Village  
One Echo Hills  
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Kohomban:

There are deeply disturbing reports of abuse involving immigrant children in your Dobbs Ferry facility.

Sourced from investigative journalism, federal oversight activity, internal agency documentation and sworn testimony describing allegations of harsh disciplinary practices, including the use of physical force by a specialized security unit, improper restraints and punitive isolation measures administered in ways apparently inconsistent with established child welfare standards and federal safety protocols, these accounts are further supported by ongoing reviews conducted by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and state-level oversight authorities, including the New York State Justice Center.

I am outraged that little children are subjected to such abuse. They are separated from family, have endured significant trauma, and are entirely dependent on the systems charged with their protection. If substantiated, these allegations raise serious questions of compliance with applicable New York State child welfare standards, federal requirements governing unaccompanied minors, and the fundamental duty of care owed to children in institutional custody.

A migrant child placed in your facility is not a lesser category of child. They are entitled to the full protections of law, dignity and humane treatment. Their presence in your care is the result of federal designation. Allegations of excessive force or punitive confinement, if accurate, are repugnant to American values.

I expect Children's Village to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of all children in your custody. Anything less will invite further scrutiny and legislative and regulatory action.

Let me be clear, I will be watching this situation closely and will work with appropriate state and federal partners to ensure that no child in your care is subjected to harm. Any institution that sanctions, tolerates or fails to prevent volatile and barbaric behavior toward children forfeits the privilege of operating within this State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Lavine".

Charles D. Lavine  
Chair, New York State Assembly Judiciary Committee

Cc: Sumie Hernandez , Executive Assistant