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**ASSEMBLY MEMBER KARINES REYES,  
CHAIR OF THE NYS ASSEMBLY & SENATE PUERTO  
RICAN/HISPANIC TASK FORCE, ON GOVERNOR KATHY  
HOCHUL’S 2024 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

Yesterday, Governor Kathy Hochul presented a series of proposals that seek to ensure the safety and health of New Yorkers. I applaud the Governor’s investment to expand public health resources, , including pre-natal care and mental health services, that will help tackle existing disparities in Latino communities. Our Task Force is also supportive of addressing the cost of insulin, given that diabetes rates amongst Latino New Yorkers is three times the national average. We are also excited at the prospect of building more affordable housing in our state and to begin having serious conversations around the need for stronger tenant protections.

This week, the City of New York began to evict the first wave of migrant families whose 60-day limit for shelter expired. As the Chair of the NYS Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, I was troubled to not hear any mention of the ongoing asylum seeker crisis as a priority facing the state. I am concerned that this omission paints an incomplete picture of where our state is and where it’s going.

The NYS Assembly & Senate’s Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force and I remain eager to work with Governor Kathy Hochul, Speaker Carl Heastie, and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to best steer our state’s response to the pressing needs of everyone who call New York home. We look forward to the release of Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget proposal next week and hope that asylum seekers are included as a valued part of “our New York, our future.”

