

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

While we appreciate your decision to extend authority under Title 32 of the U.S. Code for states to use the National Guard to support COVID-19 response through December 31, 2020, we are perplexed by the decision to treat states differently by shifting some to a 25% cost share but maintaining full Federal funding for others. We urge you to reconsider this decision and provide full Federal funding for all states and territories.

As you have said previously, states are the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. Due to the additional costs and lost revenues caused by COVID-19, state and local governments are facing unprecedented pressures on their budgets. As we work to combat the pandemic, reopen the economy, and get kids back in schools, this is the wrong time to unnecessarily burden states with additional costs. Not only will this takeaway state resources from other COVID-19 response efforts, but it has the potential to lead to a reduction in National Guard members supporting COVID-19 response.

Furthermore, we are alarmed with your decision to treat states differently. Picking and choosing which states receive full Federal funding, whatever the rationale, sets a dangerous precedent and raises serious questions about the motivations for why certain states are selected and others are not. Every state is feeling the strain of this pandemic and the National Guard mission in each state is the same – to help the emergency response to the pandemic. We see no logical justification for treating states differently.

The National Guard has played an instrumental role in COVID-19 response and recovery in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and three territories, serving as a critical tool for states to utilize for their unique and changing needs. They have been used for a range of missions such as supporting testing sites and assembling test kits, conducting contact tracing, staffing food banks, and assisting long-term care facilities. We should be proud of their work and the Federal government should put its full support behind their dedication to serving our country.

Republican and Democratic governors alike asked for an extension of Title 32, a request supported by the Department of Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Guard Bureau.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to impose a 25% cost share on some states and to instead authorize one hundred percent Federal funding for all states and territories under Title 32 until December 31, 2020.

Sincerely,



/s/ Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/ A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/ Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/ Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Kim
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/ Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/ Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/ Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

/s/ Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s/ Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

/s/ Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

/s/ Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s/ David E. Price
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/ Denny Heck
Member of Congress

/s/ Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

/s/ Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/ Don Young
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/ Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

/s/ Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

/s/ G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/ Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/ Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

/s/ Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

/s/ Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/ James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Jason Crow
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/ John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/ John Garamendi
Member of Congress

/s/ John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

/s/ José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

/s/ Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/ Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/ Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

/s/ Max Rose
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/ Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

/s/ Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/ Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

/s/ Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter T. King
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/ Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/ Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

/s/ Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Member of Congress

/s/ Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/ Ron Kind
Member of Congress

/s/ Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Casten
Member of Congress

/s/ Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/ Susie Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/ Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ TJ Cox
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

/s/ Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating
Member of Congress

/s/ Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/ Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress