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/ 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