

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Your authorization for COVID-19 Title 32 National Guard support led to the critical mobilization of thousands of Soldiers and Airmen across nearly every state and territory. The authorization, however, expires at the end of the year. This means that states will stand down these brave men and women on December 17th to give them enough time to return to their families safely.

Our nation now approaches what could very well be the deadliest winter in American history. As colder temperatures force people indoors for the holiday season, we continue to shatter records for COVID-19 infections and deaths. Governors—Democratic and Republican alike—need every tool at their disposal to keep their residents safe, including the National Guard. As with disasters past, we have witnessed the quick courage of our neighbors in uniform, whom we may need to call upon for further sacrifices again as the new year breaks. But if you allow your Title 32 authorization to lapse, you will hamstring the response of 49 states and territories: testing capacity, already spread thin, will shrink even further,¹ food delivery will slow,² and distribution of supplies, such as life-saving PPE, will stall.³

It doesn't have to be this way. President-elect Biden has already pledged to authorize full Title 32 support,⁴ including the restoration of the traditional, 100% federal cost-share, to allow the limited resources of states to be used more effectively elsewhere. Our nation needs you to do the same. You alone have the power to extend the current Title 32 authorization, and you have the power to restore the 100% federal cost-share covered by your original Title 32 authorization.

¹ Cordeiro, Timothy. "Tenn. National Guard surpasses half-million COVID-19 tests." Tennessee National Guard. <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2408143/tenn-national-guard-surpasses-half-million-covid-19-tests/>.

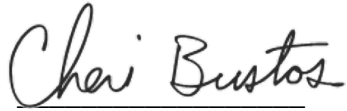
² Junell, Mary. "N.C. Guard helps distribute food during COVID-19 response." North Carolina National Guard. <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2174102/nc-guard-helps-distribute-food-during-covid-19-response/>.

³ Schepers, Christopher. "Maryland Guard distributes more than 1 million medical items." Maryland Air National Guard. <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2134162/maryland-guard-distributes-more-than-1-million-medical-items/>.

⁴ Ollstein, Alice Miranda. "Biden pledges to pay for National Guard's Covid work." *Politico*. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/19/biden-national-guard-covid-pay-438500>.

Time is running out. Forcing governors to sit and wait over a three-week delay between your Administration and the next will inflict unnecessary, easily avoidable suffering. You must restore 100% federally funded Title 32 National Guard support now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheri Bustos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress