

August 31, 2020

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The men and women of the National Guard have been instrumental in our nation's response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to initially provide a one hundred percent Federal cost-share to all states and territories provided a substantial capability that has been critical to addressing the challenges to keeping our citizens safe. The new determination to reduce the federal cost-share, however, comes at a time when there is still significant need across the country. Therefore, we request a restoration of the previous Federal cost-share levels to maintain National Guard operations without an additional burden to states and territories.

Restoring the one hundred percent Federal cost-share for all National Guard units will allow it to continue to execute the numerous tasks required for our nation's response to the threat COVID-19 poses. The National Guard has lessened the impacts of the virus in many ways including support to community-based testing sites, distributing millions of meals to Americans in need, as well as aiding our front line health workers that provide care to COVID-19 patients in hospitals and clinics across the nation. It is clear to us that the members of the National Guard have honorably answered the call to serve our nation in this difficult time, even when it puts their health and safety at risk.

Therefore, as members of the Senate National Guard Caucus, we ask that you reconsider your decision to reduce the cost-share for National Guard forces and reinstate previous Federal support levels to address the challenges that face our states and territories.

Sincerely,