

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC  
20510

January 19, 2024

Lieutenant General Michael Loh  
Director, Air National Guard  
Department of Defense

Dear Lieutenant General Loh,

We write regarding the recent initiative to level full-time funding percentages across the Air National Guard. Leveling Air National Guard funding percentages will have significant impacts on the force structure of the New Hampshire Air National Guard (NHANG). We respectfully request a pause on any force structure actions in New Hampshire until a manpower study can be conducted to determine what appropriate staffing levels should be.

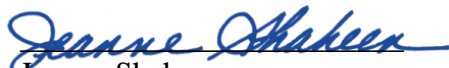
As the Air National Guard's only unit-equipped KC-46 wing, the NHANG's 157<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is unique in its mission and needs. The National Guard Bureau conducted a KC-46 Maintenance Manpower Assessment in December 2019 that concluded that additional manpower, not less, was needed to execute the 157<sup>th</sup>'s mission. While we appreciate that some personnel were added to the NHANG following this recommendation, personnel are now proposed to be removed before the National Guard Bureau has appropriately determined the complete needs of the NHANG. A manpower study should be conducted before implementing any force structure changes in New Hampshire to gain a more accurate and complete assessment of the NHANG's personnel needs.

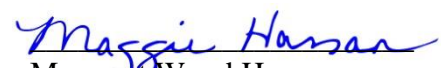
Additionally, as a result of the proposed funding leveling across the Air National Guard, pay and benefits of 22 percent of the NHANG's full-time force will be impacted. We understand that the NHANG will be required to complete staffing reductions mandated under the current proposal by October 1, 2024. This does not provide the NHANG adequate time to understand and implement personnel changes. The short timeline also puts undue pressure on NHANG members who may be cut as a result of the funding leveling.

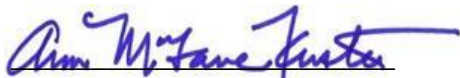
We appreciate your continued efforts to support the NHANG and look forward to remaining in touch with you on the impact the proposed full-time funding leveling will have on New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster  
United States Representative



Chris Pappas  
United States Representative