

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2020

The Honorable Christopher C. Miller
Acting Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Acting Secretary Miller,

We write to request that you extend the authorization of the New Hampshire National Guard (NHNG) to serve at the direction of the Governor, pursuant to your authority under by 502(f) of Title 32, U.S. Code. The extension and 100 percent reimbursement of this authorization will enable the NHNG to continue its support of the fight against COVID-19 through March 31, 2021. As you know, this funding is currently authorized through December 31, 2020 and an extension is vital to ensuring the health and safety of New Hampshire citizens.

The NHNG continues to play a critical role in the state's COVID-19 emergency response and currently has 190 members conducting COVID scheduling and test site staffing, voluntary contact tracing and receiving, staging and distributing medical supplies. The NHNG is prepared activate an additional 75 members to stand up and staff critical Alternate Care sites as needed. Furthermore, under the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 vaccination plan, the NHNG will need to activate an additional 175 to 250 members to staff additional vaccination sites and manage increased state warehousing operations. In total, the NHNG projects it will need to maintain between 365 and 515 members to meet long-term New Hampshire state requirements. All of these efforts are essential to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on New Hampshire citizens and the need for this support is expected to persist into the foreseeable future. As we continue to see a resurgence of coronavirus cases across the country, we share the Governor's concern that prematurely ceasing federal funding for National Guard COVID-19 support operations will hinder New Hampshire's ability to respond and could contribute to increased infections in the state.

Therefore, we request that you extend the 502(f) funding authorization and provide 100 percent reimbursement through March 31, 2021 in order to allow the New Hampshire National Guard to continue its critical support to our state. We look forward to working with you to keep Americans healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
United States Representative



Chris Pappas
United States Representative