

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
2801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Esper and Acting Secretary Wolf,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the state of Michigan. With over 90,000 confirmed cases and 6,000 deaths and numbers still on the rise, it's clear this emergency is far from over. Michigan relies on the National Guard for vital assistance, from coordinating PPE deliveries to enhancing testing capabilities. The activation of Title 32, Section 502(f), which federally funds the work of our Guardsmen and women, helps prevent the additional exacerbation of Michigan's public health and economic situation.

We were pleased to see the President's extension of the authorization for Title 32 orders through December 31st, as governors across the nation have been asking for longer-term extensions. However, the federal cost sharing reduction from 100% to 75% could have a detrimental impact on Michigan's ability to respond to any emerging coronavirus threats, as our state has relied heavily on the National Guard to fight COVID-19. Additionally, this reduction in federal cost sharing may force our state to make additional cuts to other critical services.

If recent trends are any indicator, this pandemic is far from over and the economic impacts will be felt for years to come. That is why we ask you to extend federal funding for the National Guard for the remainder of the calendar year at a 100% reimbursement rate for the state of Michigan.

Thank you in advance for considering this important and timely request.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Rashida Talib
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress