

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 2, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President,

We write today in support of the State of Wisconsin's request for an extension of 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code, funding for the Wisconsin National Guard in support of the fight against COVID-19 through at least December 31, 2020. An extension of this funding is critical to ensuring the safety and health of our citizens, as well as advancing efforts to reopen our state safely.

The work of the Wisconsin National Guard has significantly advanced our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guard continues to play a leading role in combating COVID-19 in Wisconsin and is fully integrated throughout Wisconsin's State Emergency Operations Center. The Guard is currently operating 25 field testing teams, utilizing over 1,400 service members working throughout the state to provide both community and targeted field testing. Wisconsin is likely to continue statewide testing in order to best understand the spread of COVID-19 through the end of the calendar year, utilizing approximately 1,000 service members. All of these efforts are essential to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Wisconsinites. We share the Governor's concern that prematurely ceasing federal funding for National Guard COVID-19 support operations will hinder our state's ability to respond and protect Wisconsinites.

In order to safely reopen the state of Wisconsin, we must continue to respond to the public health challenge before us. The Wisconsin National Guard is vital to this effort. Therefore, we request that you extend the 502(f)(2)(A) funding authorization in order to allow the Wisconsin National Guard to continue supporting these mission critical tasks.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress