

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge your immediate approval of the request by Governor Ned Lamont for federal authorization and funding to activate the Connecticut National Guard pursuant to Section 502(f)(2) of Title 32, United States Code. As Congress moves to appropriate billions of dollars in supplemental funding for the Department of Defense to confront the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we urge you to remove restrictions on federal funding to enable the Connecticut National Guard to provide continued support to health care professionals without draining state resources.

Currently, Connecticut National Guard personnel have been activated under state active duty status to provide medical and logistical support to the Connecticut Department of Public Health. At the Governor's request, these dedicated professionals have acted swiftly and decisively to provide critical capabilities to combat COVID-19. Given that the COVID-19 outbreak is expected to worsen in coming weeks, we must ensure that the National Guard has access to all federal resources.

With federal authorization and funding under Title 32 U.S.C., 502(f), Governor Lamont will be immediately equipped with resources necessary to continue utilizing the National Guard for emergency operations. Additionally, the use of 502(f) authorities will ensure that our citizen soldiers receive the wide range of federal benefits, including access to military hospital facilities, to maintain National Guard readiness and alleviate the burden on our already overwhelmed civilian healthcare infrastructure.

Due to the risk posed to the State of Connecticut by the COVID-19 national emergency, federal resources are needed immediately to support our National Guard. Your approval will provide necessary flexibility for the National Guard to conduct missions and facilitate a statewide response. The National Guard has stepped up during our time of need, and it is imperative that they get the benefits and support they deserve.

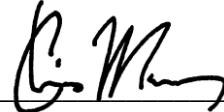
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Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request, and we urge you to continue to cooperate with the state of Connecticut on any additional federal support that may be required to navigate this crisis.

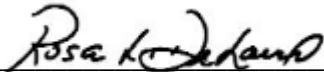
Sincerely,



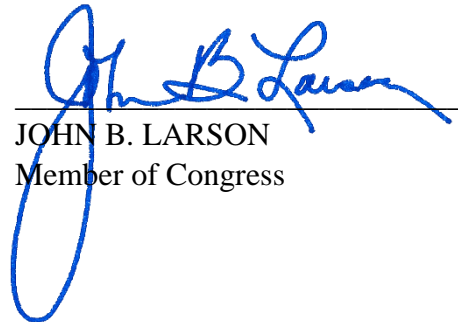
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



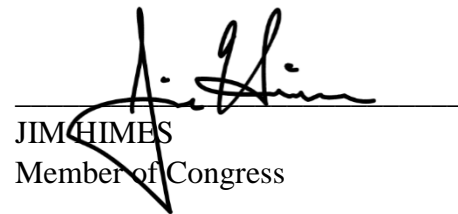
ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress