

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today as a unified, bipartisan Congressional Delegation on behalf of the State of Nevada to request an extension of 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code funding for the Nevada National Guard in support of the fight against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) through December 31, 2020. The current funding for these efforts was approved on April 11, 2020, and an extension is critical to ensuring the safety and health of Nevada citizens as we confront and recover from the pandemic and put our state back to work.

The Nevada National Guard has been critical to our state with their direct support of Nevada's state and local response efforts, and their continued support is more important than ever as we begin to see increases in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Hundreds of National Guard service members have been providing valuable support for community-based collection sites, logistics, warehouse distribution, homeless isolation/quarantine shelters, COVID-19 mapping work sites, operations centers, and much more. All of these efforts leverage state and local efforts and are essential to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Nevadans.

Nevada is currently experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 cases. Our cumulative test positivity rate has been increasing since June 17 (5.2%) and is currently 7.6%; hospitalizations of confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients experienced its highest single day increase (13.5%, combined) on July 6; and Nevada's effective reproduction rate has leveled out to a degree, however it remains significantly more elevated than during the state's sheltering order. These and other indicators suggest that Nevada could be following a similar trend as Arizona and Southern California, both areas of which have seen increases that have stressed critical capacity.

Nevada has an aggressive plan to reduce the spread of this disease, preserve critical care space, and protect vulnerable populations. Extending members of the National Guard as requested would allow us to provide essential support for local service providers, particularly in our high population areas of Washoe and Clark County. If approved, these Guard members would be deployed to support all lines of effort associated with testing (sample collection, laboratory testing, and contact tracing), as well as providing support to local and state government entities in providing logistical support for food and essential services to remote and vulnerable populations in our state.

We expect the need for National Guard support to persist through the summer and a possible resurgence in the fall months and share Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak's concern that prematurely easing federal funding for National Guard COVID-19 support operations will hinder Nevada's ability to respond. This could contribute to a possible second wave of infection. In addition, Nevada is already shouldering dramatic economic impacts, and limited state resources are available to support the listed Nevada National Guard missions.

Therefore, we request that you extend the 502(f)(2)(A) funding authorization through December 31, 2020, with required monthly assessments, in order to allow the Nevada National Guard to continue supporting these mission critical tasks.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



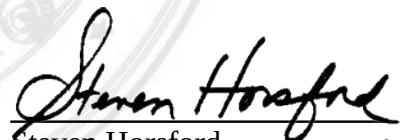
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
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Susie Lee
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