

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request you restore one hundred percent Federal cost share to all states and territories for use of the National Guard under Title 32 of U.S. Code for responding to coronavirus, which was terminated by your August 3 memorandum for all states and territories except Florida and Texas. The National Guard response has been critical within our states to supporting the health and well-being of millions of Americans.

Congress has demonstrated repeatedly that we understand 32 USC 502(f) to include the ability for the National Guard, under command of state and territory governors, to respond with Federal resources to disasters that endanger Americans. Most recently, the CARES Act included funding specifically for COVID-19 response for the Army and Air National Guards, as requested by the Department of Defense. You determined to use reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at one hundred percent cost share, and the resulting mission has lessened the negative impacts for Americans.

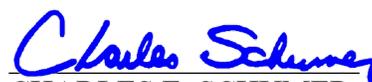
This new determination to reduce the cost share comes at the worst possible time, as positive cases continue to rise, and food security and other basic needs increase due to the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic. Further, by singling out Florida and Texas for a full cost share as other states face challenges of similar magnitude, the decision appears arbitrary and without justification. Exacerbating the arbitrary and capricious decision, the White House on August 7 extended a short term restoration for some states to a one hundred percent cost share through September 30. This inequity among states is irrational.

We ask that you re-authorize one hundred percent cost share for all states and territories through at least December 31.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



JACK REED
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



JON TESTER
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNETT
United States Senator

/s/

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



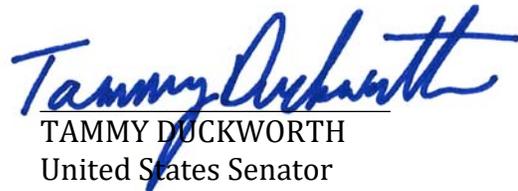
RON WYDEN
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator

/s/

MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator

/s/

MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator


JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator


PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

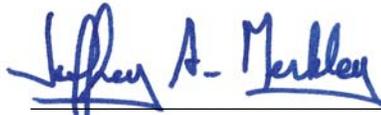

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator


CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
United States Senator

/s/

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator


JACKY ROSEN
United States Senator


JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator


ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator


EDWARD J. MARKEY
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SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator


SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator


TOM UDALL
United States Senator



KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Senator

/s/

COREY A. BOOKER
United States Senator



MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator

/s/

THOMAS R. CARPER
United States Senator