



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

August 12, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for extending your authorization for the use of Michigan National Guard forces under Title 32, U.S.C., Section 502(f) until December 31, 2020. The Michigan National Guard is a crucial part of the state's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Guard is vital to our ongoing recovery as well.

Michigan National Guard efforts include performing widespread testing and screening, distributing personal protective equipment, and assisting at numerous food banks across the state. The Guard has partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and local health departments to offer COVID-19 testing in more than 35 communities across the state in the past two months alone. National Guard assistance has allowed the Michigan Department of Corrections to accelerate testing at facilities across the state, helping to keep our staff, prisoners, and the public safe.

As you know, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on our seniors. The Michigan National Guard has been instrumental in our ability to protect seniors by conducting thousands of tests on nursing home residents and coordinating the delivery of test kits to long term care facilities across the state. With this assistance, our state has made great strides in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and our communities, seniors, and other vulnerable populations cannot afford to lose the critical support of the Michigan National Guard.

Your August 3, 2020 memoranda to extend Title 32 authority impose a 25% state cost share for some states but maintain full federal funding for others. Michigan is among the states that are now required to provide a 25% cost share to continue utilizing our National Guard under Title 32. This cost share will add to the significant financial burdens the state of Michigan is currently facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the required 25% state cost share compromises our state's ability to continue to provide National Guard support at a critical time. As we work to restart our economy, open our schools, and avoid a second wave, the testing initiatives supported by the Michigan National Guard are key to our success.

I ask that you extend 100% federal funding for the National Guard under Title 32 through

December 31, 2020 for the state of Michigan. Your decision to grant this funding will directly impact our state's ability to re-engage our economy while continuing to keep our communities safe.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my request with you at your earliest convenience and am grateful for your continued partnership as we work to address the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

cc: Mark T. Esper, Secretary, Department of Defense; Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA; Kevin M. Sligh, Acting Administrator, FEMA Region V