

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 16, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

After the United States Capitol was attacked by insurrectionists seeking to overturn the peaceful, constitutional transfer of power, the National Guard answered Congress' call to protect the Capitol. Now, more than seven months after their deployments, state National Guard units have yet to be reimbursed for their efforts. This has left National Guard units with a funding shortfall that threatens readiness and national security. We implore you to address this problem by following the House's lead and passing an emergency supplemental to fund the National Guard.

The New Hampshire National Guard (NHNG) sent more than 50 personnel to protect the Capitol. They used their airlift capacity to fly other New England National Guard units to Washington, D.C. While their deployment is over, Congress has yet to repay the NHNG for the costs they incurred during Operation Capitol Response. If the NHNG is not immediately reimbursed, it will be forced to cancel both Drill assemblies and Annual Training periods in August and September. National Guard units must have the opportunity to train and prepare for the diverse set of missions they are called upon to carry out for their communities. These cancellations will undermine readiness by limiting the Guard's ability to prepare for future missions. Failing to provide funds for the Guard is an unacceptable disservice to the Guardmembers who put their lives on hold to protect our democracy.

In May, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3237, *Emergency Security Supplemental to Respond to January 6th Appropriations Act*, which provided \$520.9 million to reimburse the Guard. The U.S. Senate should immediately take up legislation to reimburse the National Guard and ensure it is made whole after its deployment. The National Guard answered Congress' call when we needed them. Now, it is time for Congress to answer the Guard's call and provide reimbursement for Operation Capitol Response.

Thank you for your attention to this critical national security issue and we look forward to working together to ensure the National Guard has the financial resources they need.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress