

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support Governor Jared Polis's request for an extension and expansion of 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code, funding for the Colorado National Guard in support of the fight against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) through July 31, 2021. Previously, the Administration approved an extension of this funding on August 3, 2020, which is now set to expire on December 31, 2020. With rising numbers, a further extension of this authorization is critical to ensuring Colorado continues to mitigate and contain the spread of the disease.

COVID-19 cases across the nation are rising rapidly. Unfortunately, Colorado is not an exception. The state continues to balance economic recovery and preservation while prioritizing health and safety. In order to accomplish these interdependent missions, the assistance of the Colorado National Guard remains essential. We support Governor Polis's request for an extension, and expansion to include vaccine related activities, of 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code for another six months until July 31, 2021.

The ongoing support the Colorado National Guard members provide to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment through staffing COVID-19 mobile and mass testing sites of vulnerable populations is vital. In addition, the Guard assists in multiple functions such as aiding in logistics, distribution, and warehouse management for personal protective equipment to essential works. Without their assistance, Colorado would also lack the staffing necessary to support on-site testing for affected communities, Emergency Operations Center augmentation, command control functions within the State of Colorado, and critical infrastructure protection. Finally, the Colorado National Guard will play a critical role in the distribution and management of vaccine administration sites as new vaccines become available. We support Governor's Polis's request that these vaccine-related activities also be eligible for Title 32 authorized activities.

This requested extension and expansion of authorized mission assignments is essential to Colorado's ongoing management and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We request that you extend and expand the 502(f)(2)(A) funding authorization for another six months until July 31, 2021, in order to allow the Colorado National Guard to continue supporting these mission critical tasks.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Ed Perlmutter

Ed Perlmutter
United States Representative

/s/ Ken Buck

Ken Buck
United States Representative

/s/ Jason Crow

Jason Crow
United States Representative

/s/ Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
United States Representative

/s/ Cory Gardner

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Neguse

Joe Neguse
United States Representative

/s/ Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton
United States Representative

/s/ Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn
United States Representative