

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 13, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write today to request that you restore one hundred percent Federal cost share to Wisconsin for the use of the National Guard under Section 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code, through December 31, 2020, in support of the fight against COVID-19, which was terminated by your August 3 memorandum for all states and territories except Florida and Texas. An extension of the one hundred percent Federal cost share to December 31, 2020 is critical to ensuring the safety and health of our citizens, as well as advancing efforts to reopen our state.

The work of the Wisconsin National Guard has significantly advanced our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guard continues to play a leading role in combating COVID-19 in Wisconsin and is fully integrated throughout Wisconsin's State Emergency Operations Center. The Guard is currently operating 25 field testing teams, utilizing over 1,400 service members working throughout the state to provide both community and targeted field testing. Wisconsin is likely to continue statewide testing in order to best understand the spread of COVID-19 through the end of the calendar year, utilizing approximately 1,000 service members. All of these efforts are essential to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Wisconsinites. We share the Governor's concern that prematurely ceasing federal funding for National Guard COVID-19 support operations will hinder our state's ability to respond and protect Wisconsinites.

This new determination to reduce the cost share comes at the worst possible time, as the unprecedented size, scale, and duration of COVID-19 impacts far exceed the response capabilities of the State of Wisconsin. Reducing the cost share is estimated to cost the state approximately \$12.5 million through the end of the year. These funds are needed for other areas of COVID-19 response in Wisconsin. Further, as positive cases continue to rise, the singling out specific states for a full cost share as other states face challenges of similar magnitude, will further delay our nation's ability to recover from this pandemic.

In order to safely reopen the state of Wisconsin, we must continue to respond to the public health challenge before us. The Wisconsin National Guard is vital to this effort. Therefore, we request that you extend the one hundred percent Federal cost share under Section 502(f)(2)(A) until December 31, 2020 in order to allow the Wisconsin National Guard to continue supporting these mission critical tasks.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this important matter.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress