

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 27, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby,

I write to request immediate consideration of a robust supplemental appropriations package that includes urgent support for the National Guard. In response to the January 6th insurrection at our Capitol, National Guard units from across the country, including Georgia, deployed to Washington, D.C. to provide security to the Capitol, protect the pillars of our democracy, and guarantee the peaceful transfer of power.

This deployment cost the National Guard \$521 million in federal funds intended to support ordinary operations, such as monthly drill and training. This unforeseen cost, when added to the substantial extra costs incurred due to COVID-19 pandemic response and mitigation efforts, has led to a significant diversion of resources from regular operations.

Because supplemental funding has not yet been provided to compensate for this diversion of resources, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau has directed the relevant Guard authorities to pull back unexecuted federal funds from the States beginning August 1, 2021. According to this directive, these actions, “may include cancellation of drill and annual training, reductions to flying operations, cancellation of non-essential travel and training, and cancellation or deferment of facility sustainment projects.” The cancellation of these activities will result have an unacceptable and detrimental impact on readiness and cause significant disruption to the lives of our National Guard personnel.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Furthermore, the ramifications of this shortfall extend beyond the critical need of our National Guard units. The Department of Defense has provided a list of projects due for reprogramming if supplemental funding is not provided for the National Guard. These projects include: critical repairs to Lawson Army Airfield, a vital installation central to 75th Ranger Regiment operations and critical airborne training requirements; urgent quality-of-life repairs to enlisted service member housing at Fort Stewart; repairs and modernization for the Army Cyber Center of Excellence, necessary to support our nation's cyber readiness; and important base improvements in support of our strategic submarine assets at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. These Georgia national security projects, and other's across the United States, are essential to our military readiness and national security.

When our democracy was threatened, our National Guard stepped into the breach, ensuring the safety of our institutions and the continuity of our duly-elected government. We have a duty to ensure that the unforeseen costs incurred as a result of January 6th response, and the COVID-19 pandemic, do not become an enduring burden on our National Guard, our active duty force, and our national security. I urge immediate consideration and enactment of the necessary appropriations.

Sincerely,



Senator Jon Ossoff