



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

November 13, 2020
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Request for Extension of Title 32 U.S.C. Section 502(f)(2) Authorization

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you again for authorizing our use of the National Guard to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. On August 3, 2020, you authorized the use of 400 members pursuant to 32 USC 502(f)(2) through December 31, 2020. I ask that you extend your authorization for Connecticut's use of 400 Guard members from January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, and provide for a 100% federal cost share.

Your previous authorizations (April 2 through September 30, 2020) provided authorization for Connecticut to use the National Guard with a 100% federal cost share. The current authorization (October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020) provides for a 75% federal cost share. Connecticut's 25% cost share is estimated to cost approximately \$2.5 million, adding to the fiscal burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our State's projected deficit for fiscal year 2021 is currently estimated to be \$1.26 billion. In recognition of this financial hardship, I ask that your authorization for Connecticut's continued use of our National Guard provide for a 100% federal cost share.

Your extension of the authorization will permit Connecticut's Guard to continue performing essential, life-saving operations – including vaccine administration – without cost to Connecticut. With the recent upward spike in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, the Guard's operations will be an important element in our ongoing efforts to address the pandemic well into calendar year 2021. The Guard will continue to conduct operations designed to reduce the incidence of COVID-19 and to continue our efforts to safely open Connecticut's economy – directly supporting the strategic interests both the State of Connecticut and the United States. Thank you for your consideration of my request and I welcome any opportunity to discuss the importance of continuing the authorization for Connecticut's use of the Guard in response to the COVID-19 pandemic directly with you, the Vice President, or the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont
Governor