

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith,

As you begin conference negotiations for the FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we urge you to retain the House-passed language regarding the U.S. Air Force's Legislative Proposal 480 (LP 480) in the final bill. This straightforward and commonsense amendment preserves the statutory authority of governors to oversee National Guard forces under Title 32, while permitting the one-time personnel transfer that the U.S. Air Force requested.

LP 480 seeks to transfer National Guard members performing space missions into the U.S. Space Force without gubernatorial approval. Such a change would undermine Sections 104 of Title 32 and 18238 of Title 10, which ensure that adjustments to the structure, organization, or mission of National Guard units have the consent of the state's governor. For over a century, this authority has helped the National Guard fulfill the role of a flexible fighting force, able to respond swiftly to both domestic emergencies and national security needs. Should Congress strip governors of the ability to manage National Guard units within their states, it would risk fundamentally altering the Guard's mission and identity, as well as set a concerning precedent whose impacts may be broader than anticipated.

We recognize the urgency of the future threats facing our national security, and we support the Department of the Air Force's efforts to prepare. We also believe that the desired end can be achieved through dialogue with affected states, without undermining the foundational principles that have guided the National Guard for over a century. This goal is shared by all 55 governors, who voiced their opposition to LP 480 in April letters to Secretary Austin. As this year's NDAA process did not allow for amendment floor votes in the Senate, a companion measure with 32 bipartisan cosponsors was not able to be considered before the full chamber. To that end, we strongly urge the Senate and House Armed Services Committees to preserve the House-passed protections for governor oversight in the FY2025 NDAA.

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Sincerely,



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator




Jason Crow
Member of Congress



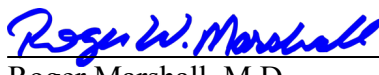
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



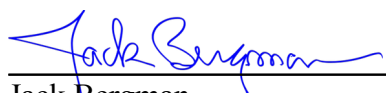
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



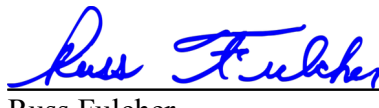
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



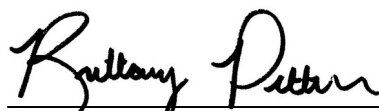
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Steve Womack
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Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



Michael A. Rulli
Member of Congress




Joe Manchin III
United States Senator




Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



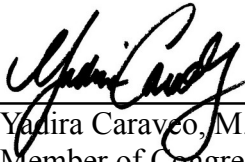
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator

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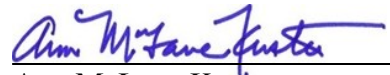
Yandira Caravco, M.D.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



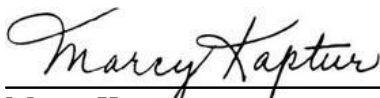
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

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Jim Costa
Member of Congress



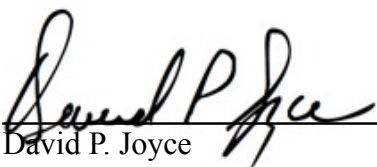
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



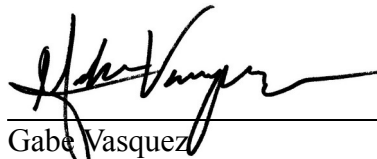
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



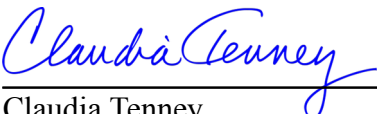
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



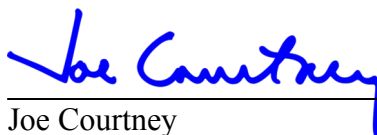
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

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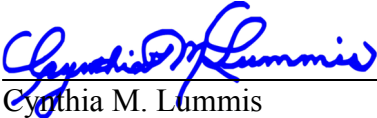
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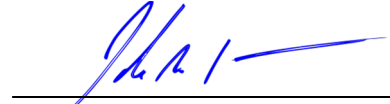
André Carson
Member of Congress




Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



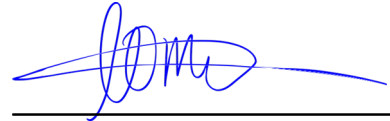
Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator




John R. Curtis
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



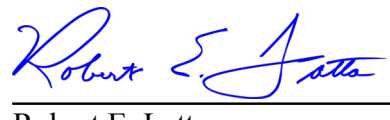
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



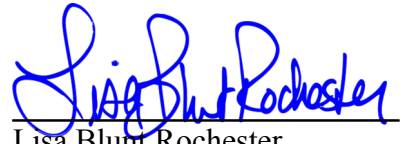
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

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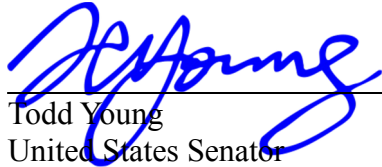
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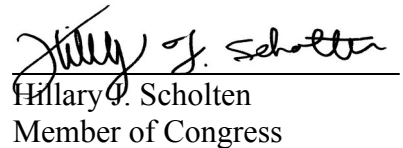
Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



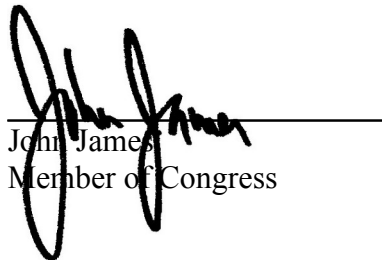
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



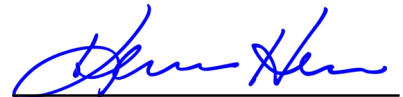
Todd Young
United States Senator



Hillary P. Scholten
Member of Congress



John James
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress




Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

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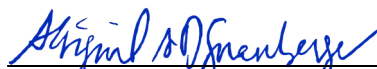
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



James Lankford
United States Senator



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



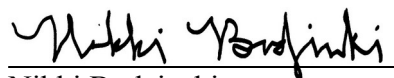
David Kustoff
Member of Congress



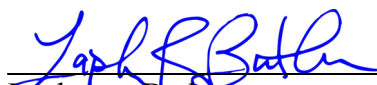
Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Laphonza Butler
United States Senator

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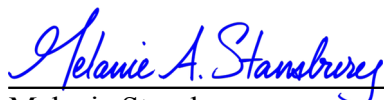
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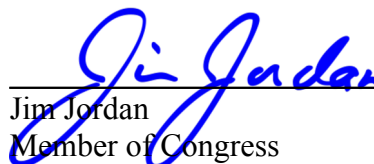
Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



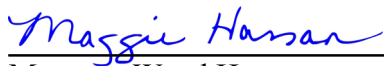
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



James R. Baird, PhD
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress

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Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



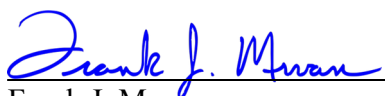
Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



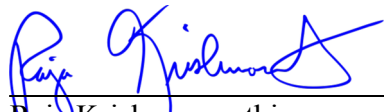
Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



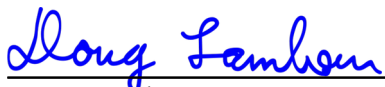
Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



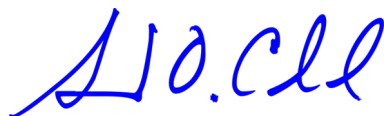
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



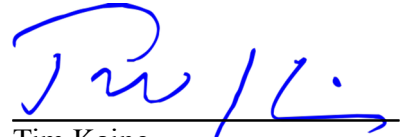
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

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John Hoeven
United States Senator



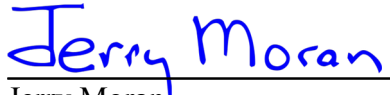
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Greg Lopez
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran
United States Senator