

May 6, 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 Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees,

We write regarding a deeply flawed legislative proposal put forward by the U.S. Air Force that would undermine our National Guard system. Legislative Proposal 480 (LP 480) overrides the longstanding tradition that requires the Department of Defense to acquire governor approval before transferring any National Guard units to another branch of the military.

The recently released proposal by the Air Force seeks to transfer members of the National Guard who perform space missions and designate them as “part-timers” under a full-time Space Force without regard to governor authority. In doing so, the Air Force intends to disregard portions of Section 104 of Title 32, which states that no change in the branch, organization, or allotment of a unit can be made without the approval of its Governor, and Section 18238 of Title 10, which places limitations on the relocation of Army and Air National Guard units without the consent of the Governor. Advancing LP 480 would negate that policy and require statutory changes, presumably through the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

Congress established the National Guard as a “ready” reserve force serving in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Today’s Guardsmen and women hold civilian jobs while maintaining their military readiness to respond to domestic emergencies like health emergencies, civil unrest, or national disasters in the state they’re serving. They also maintain their operational reserve status for national security missions. This dual mission is essential to the founding purpose of the National Guard.

**To be clear: when individuals sign up for the National Guard, they are serving their country and their community. Congress shouldn’t abandon this model.**

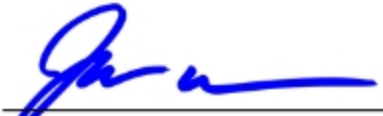
The original intent of the National Guard was to have a force ready to respond to the needs of their state and country. Because of this, authority was placed in the hands of each state’s individual governor. This is more than a matter of governance; governors bear the responsibility to protect the safety of their citizens by maintaining the readiness and deployability of their National Guard units. Governors have a responsibility to those Guardsmen and women who voluntarily join the National Guard branch and state of their choosing. LP 480 undermines the choice made by these men and women.

Congress has a duty to maintain the integrity and longstanding tradition of the National Guard, and a proposal of this magnitude threatens to undo over 120 years of precedent. We recognize the Air Force is

evolving to address future threats, but there are other options available to the Air Force to accomplish this evolution that don't undo an important foundation of our state National Guard system established by Congress.

We urge the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to reject the inclusion of Legislative Proposal 480 in the FY2025 NDAA.

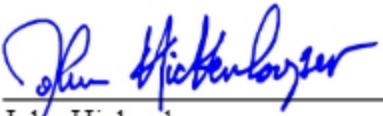
Sincerely,



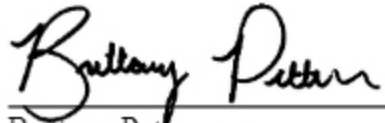
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



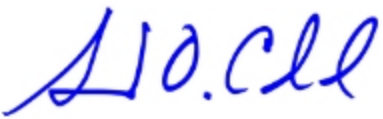
Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



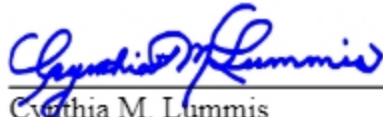
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Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



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Celeste Maloy  
Member of Congress



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Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



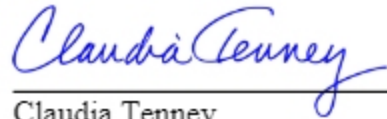
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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



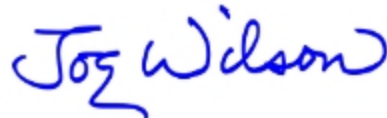
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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress




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Wesley Hunt  
Member of Congress



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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



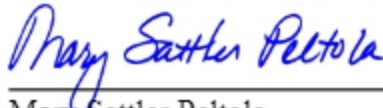
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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James E. Risch  
United States Senator



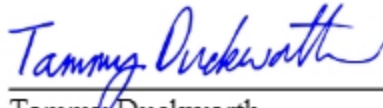
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Mary Sattler Peltola  
Member of Congress



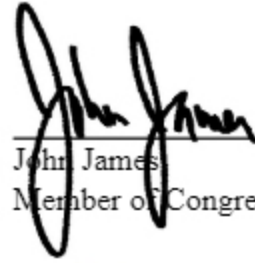
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Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John James  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



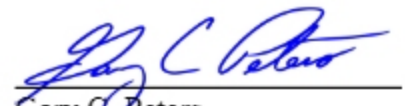
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



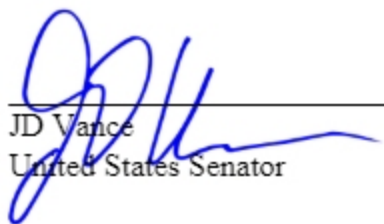
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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



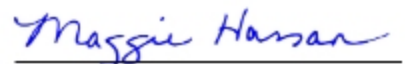
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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JD Vance  
United States Senator



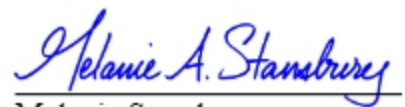
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Maggie Hassan  
United States Senator



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



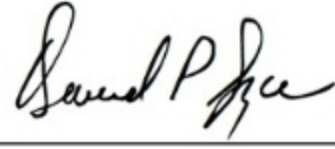
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



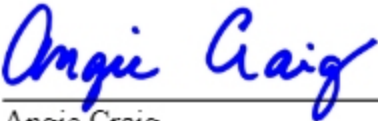
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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator




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David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



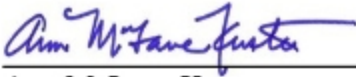
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Ryan K. Zinke  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



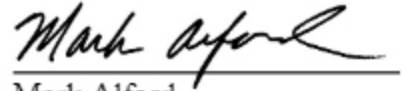
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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



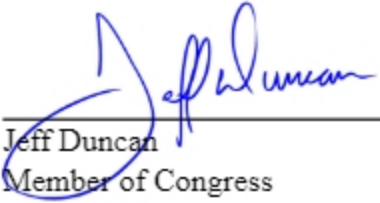
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



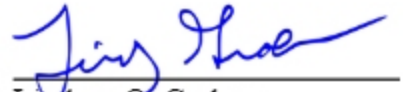
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Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



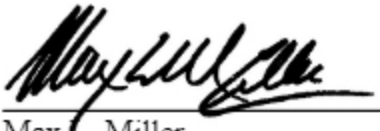
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Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



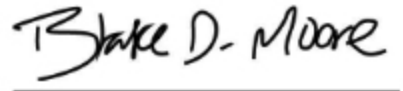
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Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator




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Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



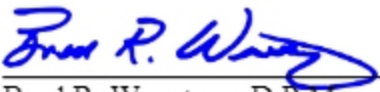
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Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



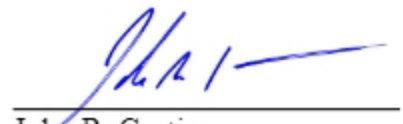
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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



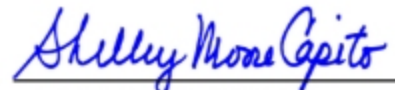
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John R. Curtis  
Member of Congress



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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



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Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



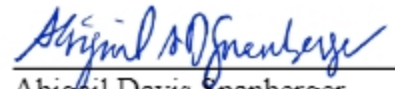
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



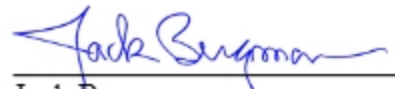
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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress





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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress




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Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator




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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator




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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator




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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



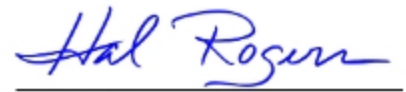
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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



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Laphonza Butler  
United States Senator



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Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress



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Harriet M. Hageman  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Morgan Luttrell  
Member of Congress



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John Barrasso  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator