



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request authorization for the full use and force of Michigan's National Guard to be dedicated to COVID-19 response and support, under 32 U.S.C. 502(f) for up to 180 days and request you direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse the Department of Defense (DOD) with federal disaster funds when National Guard forces are employed in a federally-funded 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) status during this complex domestic emergency.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. On March 13, 2020, you declared a national emergency to combat its spread. As you know, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and is easily spread from person to person. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease.

On March 10, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 here in Michigan. The same day, I issued Executive Order 2020-4, which declared a state of emergency across the state of Michigan under section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.401 to 30.421, and 1945 PA 302, as amended, MCL 10.31 to 10.33. As of today, we have identified 93 presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 and that number is expected to rise.

Despite the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented, Michiganders have risen to meet the challenge by helping their friends, families, and neighbors in taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread. My administration has taken necessary action to

protect against the spread of COVID-19 by issuing executive orders that closed schools, restricted places of public accommodation, and prohibited large assemblages of 50 or more people, among many other actions.

These necessary and decisive actions have placed a heavy burden on everyone. While I am confident in the unconquerable spirit of our citizens and their ability to persevere, COVID-19 is unlike anything we have encountered in our lifetime and we need the help of the federal government.

The Michigan National Guard is a crucial part of the State's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Guard will perform humanitarian missions across the state, such as helping run mobile screening facilities, distributing food and medical supplies, ensuring resiliency of supply lines, disinfecting public spaces, and supporting public safety when required.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "G".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor