



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

May 6, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Over the past year, the Michigan National Guard has demonstrated time and again that it is a critical resource to the state in times of crisis. In January 2021, I deployed several hundred Michigan National Guard members to Washington D.C. to assist in ensuring a peaceful transition of presidential power. I'm proud that these outstanding Michiganders lent their professionalism, training, and experience to ensure the safety and well-being of our fellow Americans in Washington, D.C. and safeguard our democracy.

Unfortunately, these service members were faced with undercooked food and substandard living conditions. The fact that these courageous Michiganders had to face such hardship while serving their country was outrageous and unacceptable. In early March, I traveled to Washington DC to meet with servicemembers during their lunch break to thank them for their service and acknowledge their sacrifice. And last month, a group of lawmakers stepped up to raise \$110,000 as a way of saying "thank you" and reimbursing service members who may have had to purchase their own food while deployed. Today, I am delighted to sign Enrolled House Bill 4019 of 2021 making appropriation of those funds.

To provide direction regarding the implementation of this appropriations act, I note that Article 4, section 22 of the Michigan Constitution provides: "All legislation shall be by bill and may originate in either house." Moreover, article 4, section 33 of the Michigan Constitution provides, in part: "Every bill passed by the legislature shall be presented to the governor before it becomes law" Boilerplate that purports to authorize legislation other than by bill impermissibly skirts the bill requirement of section 22 and the presentment requirement of section 33. For that reason, section 203 is unenforceable.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Michigan Senate
The Honorable Jocelyn Benson