



January 31, 2020

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
2328 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Robin Vos
Assembly Speaker
Wisconsin
President, NCSL

Katherine B. Schill
Fiscal Analyst
Fiscal Analysis Department
Minnesota
Staff Co-Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Executive Director

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
2205 Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Funding for National Guard Capabilities Fiscal Year 2021

Dear Chairman Visclosky, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Calvert, and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), thank you for your long-standing support of our state National Guards. We write to request that your support continue in appropriations made for fiscal year 2021. States must have rapid and effective public safety and disaster response, which depend upon our civilian and military first responders. Specifically, we ask for your continued generosity toward the Army National Guard (ARNG) and Air National Guard (ANG). The ability of the ARNG and ANG to serve as strategic assets to our nation's active duty military while also serving as our military first responders to storms, floods and fires hinges on the need for adequate funding.

Programs such as the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Modernization Program and the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account play an integral role in allowing the Guards to effectively perform their duty. While the National Guard does receive new, modernized equipment from many other Army and Air Force equipment programs, these two accounts enable the National Guard to fund its own replacement of antiquated systems with essential new gear. These programs have a real and noticeable impact on our states' capabilities to save lives.

Thank you for the significant investments you have made to these programs and your continued support in the upcoming fiscal year appropriations process. If you or your staff have any further questions or concerns, please contact NCSL staff Jon Jukuri (Jon.Jukuri@ncsl.org) and Michael Quillen (Michael.Quillen@ncsl.org)

Sincerely,

Delegate Terry G. Kilgore
Virginia House of Delegates
Co-Chair, NCSL Labor & Economic Development Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Carlton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton

Nevada State Assembly

Co-Chair, NCSL Labor & Economic Development Committee

Cc: Members of the House Subcommittee on Defense
Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Defense