



Ohio House Democratic Caucus

Governor Mike DeWine
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High St, 30 FL
Columbus, OH 43215

May 21, 2020

Dear Governor DeWine,

During this unprecedented pandemic, it is important that we continue to do everything we can to further slow the spread of COVID-19 by utilizing all available resources to us, including the Ohio National Guard. It has come to our attention that President Trump has issued orders that the service members of the National Guard's deployment will "hard stop" on June 24, 2020. This is concerning for two reasons.

For National Guard deployments, 90 days is an important threshold. Once a deployment lasts 90 days, deployed service members are eligible for a variety of benefits including credits towards early retirement, and enhanced educational opportunities. Currently, the termination of deployments just one day shy of the 90 day threshold seems malicious, especially in the midst of this current pandemic.

Furthermore, the crisis our state is going through because of the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. As you are well aware, the Ohio National Guard is spread across the state to provide support for many different aspects of the COVID-19 response including hospitals, foodbanks, and prisons. In the weeks and months ahead, Ohio will continue to need the support of the National Guard to protect its citizens.

Respectfully, we urge you to call on President Trump to rescind the "hard stop" of National Guard deployments to ensure Ohio continues to have access to this critical resource to fight COVID-19, and ensure that the brave men and women serving our country will receive access to the benefits they rightfully deserve.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa A. Sobecki in black ink.

Lisa A. Sobecki
45th District

Handwritten signature of Casey Weinstein in black ink.

Casey Weinstein
37th District

Handwritten signature of Erica Crawley in black ink.

Erica Crawley
26th District

Handwritten signature of Michael Sheehy in black ink.

Michael Sheehy
46th District