

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge you to reverse your reckless decision to federalize and deploy Texas and Illinois National Guard troops to Illinois. Your use of the military to sow fear and chaos in American cities, including over the objections of several Governors, is unconstitutional and un-American, infringes on individual and states' rights, and threatens to undermine military readiness and morale.

The men and women who serve in the National Guard signed up to defend the nation in times of war and to aid their communities during disasters. They did not sign up to be used as political props, to threaten the civil liberties they swore to protect, or to take over civilian law enforcement. Policing Americans is not the role of the military. That is the role of civilian law enforcement. The founders of this great nation understood that democracy, liberty, and the rule of law were dependent upon preventing the military from being turned upon its own people. Sending troops into American cities without proper justification and legal authority undermines democracy and the rule of law and puts both civil liberties and lives at risk. Federalizing and deploying National Guard troops to Illinois under the present circumstances, including over the objection of the Governor and the people of Illinois, violates federal law and the Constitution.

These dangerous and unlawful actions are completely unnecessary. State, county, and local law enforcement remain appropriately and responsibly able to respond to crime, civil unrest, and other critical needs. For example, the Broadview Police Department, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, and Illinois Emergency Management Agency have been coordinating on crowd control and public safety with a Unified Command outside of the Broadview U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement (ICE) facility.

Instead of working with and empowering local law enforcement, ICE and other U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) officials are escalating tensions in Broadview and across Chicago, using excessive force against individuals peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights and blocking emergency access. Meanwhile, even as you surge federal law enforcement and deploy military personnel against Illinoisans, you have slashed hundreds of millions of dollars from the public safety programs and law enforcement agencies that keep Americans safe.

In addition, the deployment of troops for politicized law enforcement actions damages military operational readiness, erodes trust in the military as an institution, and disrupts the

civilian lives of military personnel and their families. Guard units are being pulled away from their day jobs, scheduled training, and mission preparation to do a job that they are fundamentally not trained to do to address a crisis manufactured by your Administration. This unnecessary and dangerous diversion of military personnel and resources for a non-military job leaves our National Guard less prepared to respond to their primary missions, ranging from natural disasters to national security threats, that could actually threaten Americans.

We urge you to respect your oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and immediately terminate the federalization and planned deployment of National Guard troops to Illinois.

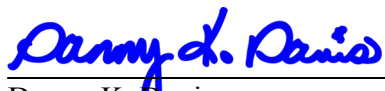
Sincerely,



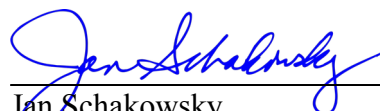
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



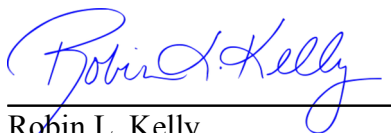
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



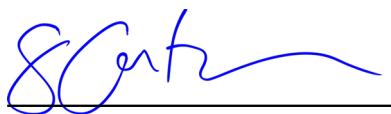
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



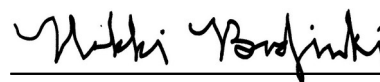
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



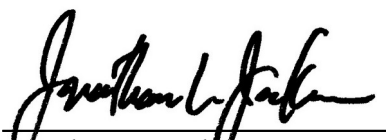
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



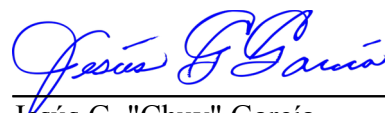
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress