

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

March 28, 2020

The Honorable Mark T. Esper  
Secretary  
United States Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20318

The Honorable Pete T. Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Esper and Administrator Gaynor:

In light of the ongoing pandemic of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and as a result of the President's declaration of a National State of Emergency, we write to strongly support New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's request for the deployment of a fully equipped Combat Support Hospital (CSH) to Albuquerque, New Mexico and to mobilize any needed Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources (BEAR) units to New Mexico communities under strain to meet the demands of a surge in new COVID-19 patients. The Governor's letter of March 25, 2020 is attached.

As of March 27, 2020, the State of New Mexico has identified 136 positive cases. Despite proactive measures by state and local public health authorities to reduce community spread of COVID-19, this pandemic threatens to overwhelm the State's existing medical treatment facilities and resources by early April. As we have seen in other states, once the community spread of COVID-19 takes place, the infection rate increases exponentially. Public health experts in New Mexico predict that resources will soon be exhausted and it is imperative that the State acquire additional beds and resources before it reaches a critical mass of infections.

Although many hospital systems across the United States are feeling the strain of this public health emergency, New Mexico's limited existing capacity, particularly in the rural regions of our state, make our health care system especially vulnerable to being overwhelmed by this pandemic. A CSH or medical tent facility would provide much-needed resources to bolster the State of New Mexico's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We again express our strong support for the State of New Mexico's request. We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Udall  
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

/s/ Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Representative

/s/ Debra Haaland  
United States Representative

/s/ Xochitl Torres Small  
United States Representative