



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Kenneth Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 9:13-d, I respectfully request approval to authorize expenditures in the amount of \$850,000 to facilitate a state active-duty operation of the New Hampshire National Guard in support of security activities at the southern United States border to protect New Hampshire citizens from harm, effective upon Fiscal Committee approval through June 15, 2024. Funds will be drawn from otherwise unappropriated monies available in the State Treasury.

EXPLANATION

On February 4, 2024, I traveled to Eagle Pass, Texas, with 13 other governors, and received a briefing directly from Texas authorities. Texas Governor Greg Abbott was clear – they need our help. While Texas has done admirable work in securing their border, they still need additional manpower and resources absent the Federal Government’s support.

The Federal Government’s inaction at our nation’s borders has led to a crisis with direct impacts upon all fifty states. There is nothing safe, orderly, or humane about what is happening at the southern border. Fentanyl is pouring in, human trafficking is occurring unabated, and individuals on the terrorist watch list are coming in unchecked. Since Operation Lone Star was launched by Governor Greg Abbott, Texas law enforcement has seized over 450 million lethal doses of fentanyl – enough to kill every single American.

The southern border has devolved into a corridor for the cartels to funnel fentanyl (and other drugs) into this country, fueling an epidemic of overdoses and ruined lives. Open borders invite threats of terrorism and other ill-intended aims.

Every state, including New Hampshire, has experienced firsthand the economic and emotional toll associated with the federal government’s failed response. As a result of this failed response, it is incumbent upon the states to take coordinated action to combat these shared concerns. Simply stated, in the absence of a willingness at the federal level to secure our borders, states (both individually and collectively) must undertake efforts to protect the safety of their citizens.

While New Hampshire has taken significant steps to protect our northern border through the Northern Border Alliance Task Force, we must recognize that we are also directly impacted by the crisis occurring at the southern border. It is imperative that we join the efforts by our fellow states to maintain a security presence at the most vulnerable points of entry.


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This request is rooted in genuine urgency to act; the calls for an appreciable federal response have gone unanswered for years, leading the amplification of the above cited issues and the normalization of an open borders' environment. To continue in the absolute absence of action is untenable and only compounds the concerns for our citizens. For the foregoing reasons I have made a determination that in accordance with RSA 9:13-d a civil emergency exists such that timely funding is necessary to support action at the southern border to protect the safety, health and welfare of New Hampshire's citizens.

Fulfillment of this funding request will enable me to place a squad of New Hampshire National Guard members (up to 15 individuals) on state active duty for up to 90 days. Once activated, these soldiers will fall underneath the operational direction of the Texas National Guard and will be consistent with existing state and federal laws.

RSA 9:13-d allows for expenditures with consent of the fiscal committee in instances in which action is called for on an expedited basis to combat harms to the safety and welfare of the state. In this instance, and in order to work towards a solution for the southern border crisis I am requesting authorization to expend these funds. The brave men and women of the National Guard will join our fellow states' efforts in securing the border and providing a safer environment for the citizens of New Hampshire.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor