

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Governor  
State Capitol  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

We urge you to utilize all the resources available to you to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the activation of the Arizona National Guard in a Title 32 capacity to perform wraparound and other critical services at hospitals and other care facilities. Hospital systems, health care facilities, and those caring for Arizona's most vulnerable populations are suffering from severe staffing shortages. This endangers their ability to care for Arizonans, worsening people's health outcomes, increasing costs, and putting lives and livelihoods at risk. We ask that Arizona take full advantage of all available resources, including the 100 percent federal reimbursement provided through April 1, 2022 for National Guard activities in response to COVID-19.

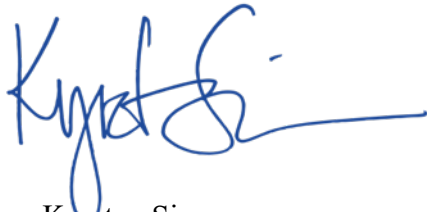
On January 14, 2022, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authorized Title 32 National Guard resources to be deployed to provide wraparound services at primary medical care facilities. Wraparound services can include activities such as transport, biomedical waste removal, food preparation and delivery, perimeter fencing, professional cleaning, contracted security services, and other critical services necessary to keep health care facilities operating safely and securely. Such deployment of National Guard personnel is authorized when:

- COVID-19 creates staffing shortages at primary medical care facilities for critical wraparound services;
- the primary medical care facility is unable to address the staffing shortage itself in a timely and efficient manner; and
- the shortage impairs the ability of the primary medical care facility to provide wraparound services to such a degree that the primary medical care facility's ability to adequately provide COVID-19 medical care is at a high enough risk of failure as to constitute an immediate threat to the public health and safety.

In addition to critical wraparound services, we urge you to continue to work with stakeholders across the state to appropriately deploy National Guard and other resources necessary to keep Arizonans safe and secure. We applaud all National Guard personnel who have assisted in Arizona's COVID-19 response effort, assisting with vaccine distribution, supporting direct patient care, distributing food and personal protective equipment (PPE), and bolstering contact

tracing and testing. We stand ready to assist in the state's pandemic efforts and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senator



Mark Kelly  
U.S. Senator