

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 15, 2023

Gen. Daniel Hokanson  
Chief of the National Guard Bureau  
1636 Defense Pentagon – Suite 2E630  
Washington D.C. 20301-1636

General Hokanson,

We write today in support of robust funding for armory modernization efforts being undertaken by the Michigan National Guard. The Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill included \$1,128,996,000 in funding for Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization (FSRM) for the Army National Guard, which is a \$75,000,000 increase over the FY23 President's Budget request. Given the strong support by Congress for robust investment in our Army National Guard facilities, we urge you to direct the necessary funds to assist the Michigan National Guard in their armory modernization efforts.

The Department of Defense is facing an enterprise-wide recruiting and retention challenge. As such, it is incumbent on the National Guard Bureau to invest wherever possible to ensure servicemember quality of life issues are being met. The Michigan National Guard has identified thirty-four facilities across the state that do not yet have adequate facilities for women servicemembers. Many of these armories are decades old and were designed for a nearly all-male force. Today, women servicemembers make up nearly 18% of the Michigan Army National Guard.

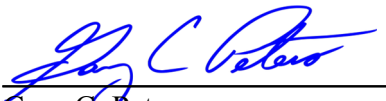
Congress is supportive of this funding, not just evidenced by the significant increase in FSRM funding for the Army National Guard that was included in the FY23 Omnibus but also with language signaling Congressional intent for this increase in funding. The Joint Explanatory Statement which accompanied the Senate version of the FY23 Defense Appropriations Bill included the following:

***Army National Guard Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization Funding*** — “*The Committee recommends a robust funding level in fiscal year 2023 for facility sustainment, restoration and modernization. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau is encouraged to use a portion of these funds to modernize state Army National Guard facilities to address inequities that exist related to facilities and spaces provided to address the needs of female service members.*”

In addition to the strong backing from Congress, the State of Michigan is supportive of this initiative and has already allocated \$55,000,000 in funding for this modernization program. Complementary federal funding from the National Guard Bureau would help validate their mission of ensuring women servicemembers have access to equal and adequate facilities.

We send a strong signal to our troops of what we support by what we choose to invest in. In this era of great power competition and recruiting challenges, we would be remiss to not take advantage of the opportunity before us to invest in the Total Force. We urge you to make the necessary funding available for the Michigan National Guard to complete their armory modernization efforts.

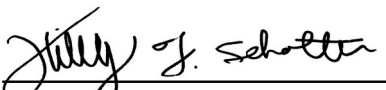
Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress