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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

**COMMITTEE ON  
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**CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS**  
CHAIRMAN

January 23, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Chairwoman  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Request for Hearing on Events Surrounding U.S. National Guard Troops Forced Out of U.S. Capitol

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis:

I formally request the Committee on House Administration convene a hearing to determine why U.S. National Guard troops, 26,000 who were deployed to support U.S. Capitol Police's efforts to provide security during the 46<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration, were forced to vacate the U.S. Capitol. This decision was egregious and is unacceptable.

Approximately twenty-five National Guard forces from my state of Arizona were deployed to our nation's capital to provide force support to U.S. Capitol Police. In the week leading up to the Inauguration, photos of National Guardsmen relegated to sleeping on the marble floors of the U.S. Capitol and throughout the Capitol Grounds went viral. These images garnered an outpouring of support from Americans across the country who, rightfully so, donated food, provisions, and cots. The men and women of the U.S. National Guard deserve better.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, numerous media reports and photos were published showing these same National Guard forces sleeping on the cold asphalt of the Capitol complex garages. It was reported that "[they] were told to vacate the Capitol and nearby congressional buildings on Thursday, and to set up mobile command centers outside."<sup>1</sup> These same reports note that one National Guard unit was forced into a nearby parking garage without internet reception, one

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<sup>1</sup> Seligman, Laura, Bertrand, Natasha, Desiderio, Andrew. "We feel incredibly betrayed": Thousands of Guardsmen forced to vacate Capitol." Politico.com. January 21, 2021 Found here:

[https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/21/national-guard-troops-vacate-capitol-461220?fbclid=IwAR0fgTjW\\_Ito2x6rRBP7qXCeRkR\\_RRqjDBGYMWTS691CJ9FuLqr2hLXDt04](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/21/national-guard-troops-vacate-capitol-461220?fbclid=IwAR0fgTjW_Ito2x6rRBP7qXCeRkR_RRqjDBGYMWTS691CJ9FuLqr2hLXDt04)

electrical outlet and one bathroom for approximately 5,000 troops. According to two National Guardsmen, “At least 100 Guardsmen have tested positive for COVID-19.”<sup>2</sup> This is absolutely despicable and a sad state of affairs when our men and women in uniform have better accommodations overseas than they do on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. It is estimated that 7,000 U.S. National Guardsmen will be stationed in our nation’s capital through the end of January. They must never again be relegated to the garages of the U.S. Capitol. This must be fixed immediately. The American people demand and indeed deserve answers now. That is why it is imperative that a formal hearing by your committee be conducted in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> Seligman, Bertrand, Desiderio, ““We feel incredibly betrayed’: Thousands of Guardsmen forced to vacate Capitol.”