

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our strong opposition to your reported plans¹ to mobilize and deploy the National Guard or active-duty service members to Chicago. While your actions come as no surprise given the recent militarization in Washington, D.C., they are nonetheless unlawful, unconstitutional, and unacceptable.

The deployment of the U.S. military into American cities is not about safety or security. It is about control. It is about abusing the power of the Executive Branch and threatening Democratic-led cities and states that dare to openly oppose your authoritarianism. The Administration is attacking cities and states that continue to uphold the rule of law and defend our Constitution, our civil liberties, and due process.

You are disrespecting our troops by treating them like they are your Mar-A-Lago staff—forcing men and women in uniform to pick up trash and perform landscaping duties and making U.S. servicemembers perform clerical work as de facto administrative staff for civil immigration enforcement matters. Pulling troops away from tough, realistic training relevant to high-end combat is not only wasteful, but dangerously degrades military readiness, erodes servicemember morale, and undermines public confidence in a professional and apolitical U.S. Armed Forces.

Let us be clear: there is no emergency in Chicago that warrants the President of the United States deploying the military.

Reducing violent crime and improving public safety is a serious issue that should never be abused to foment headline-grabbing spectacles. If you truly cared about law and order, your administration would double down on proven violence intervention strategies that prevent retaliatory escalation, instead of spending massive amounts of taxpayer dollars to terrorize and hunt down nonviolent individuals for civil immigration violations. Your tactics are a deeply

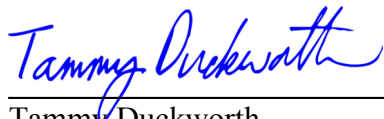
¹ CBS News, *Pentagon reportedly planning military deployment in Chicago; Pritzker accuses Trump of "attempting to manufacture a crisis."* <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/brandon-johnson-donald-trump-threat-national-guard-crime-chicago/>

ineffective and wasteful diversion of resources away from law-enforcement operations targeting violent criminal organizations that flood our city with illegal firearms.

While your Administration manufactures a crisis to abuse this nation's military power, the work of meeting the needs of our communities is neglected. Your Administration should restore community violence intervention grants, lower the costs of everyday goods impacted by tariffs and stop cutting Medicaid and SNAP, which take away health care and take food off the tables of everyday Americans.

Abuses of government and military power to target and punish dissent are the tools of authoritarians. We demand you suspend any plans for the deployment of military personnel to Chicago and cease your unlawful power grabs and Executive Branch overreach.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



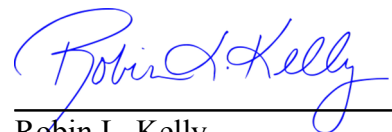
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



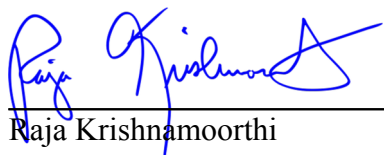
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



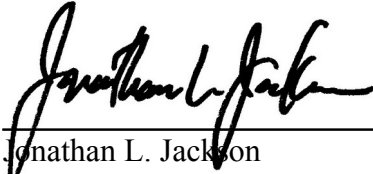
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



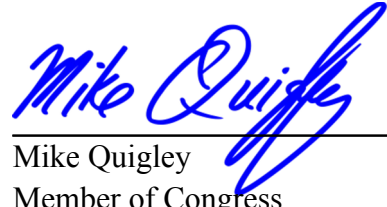
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



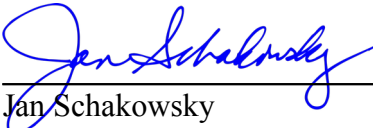
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress