

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Madam Speaker,

We write to express our concern with the militarized fencing, excessive security infrastructure, and significant National Guard presence on the grounds of the United States Capitol. The Pentagon recently announced that sending National Guard troops to occupy the Capitol Complex from January 6 to March 15 will cost \$483 million. In light of this staggering announcement, we are asking for a detailed justification for continued National Guard presence and clarity on whether taxpayers will be responsible for this nearly \$500 million expenditure.

While we appreciate the service of these brave men and women, we have questions about the continued necessity of a presence of this magnitude. In addition, the barbed-wire fencing and barriers around the Capitol Complex are posing logistical difficulties for staff and visitors, as well as preventing the American people from enjoying their nation's Capital. We would like to request answers for the following inquiries:

- How much did the construction of the Capitol fencing and security barriers cost?
- How long will the Capitol fencing and security barriers remain?
- Is it accurate that of the \$483 million spent on National Guard troops, nearly \$200 million was spent on lodging, meals, transportation, sustainment, and airlift costs?
- What factors were considered when determining the need for approximately 6,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen to stay in Washington through March 12?
- Will American taxpayers pay for these expenditures?

The events of January 6 were reprehensible, and we understand a temporary need for increased security. However, keeping thousands of troops in Washington indefinitely is fiscally irresponsible and sends the wrong message to our nation. The American people do not have the luxury of calling in thousands of troops and spending millions of dollars to build barbed-wire fences around their homes when they feel vulnerable. To indulge Members of Congress – particularly if it is at the taxpayers' expense – with these excessive measures is insulting and un-American.

We look forward to your response to our inquiries and urge you to re-evaluate the necessity of these measures. The American people are watching closely to see how their nation's Capital will project strength and resilience.

CC:

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