



**THE GENERAL COURT
OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Concord, NH 03301

June 2, 2020

His Excellency Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

Thank you for your statements yesterday regarding the peaceful protests taking place across New Hampshire as we stand together in grief over the murder of George Floyd and so many others. We appreciate the steps being taken to ensure New Hampshire citizens are given the opportunity to have their voices heard in a way that respects public safety while we continue to navigate the coronavirus pandemic.

We write today in regards to recent actions taken by the President in response to peaceful protest. Just last night we watched as peaceful protestors were bombarded with rubber bullets and tear gas in Lafayette Park. We heard the President express his desire for an occupying force across the country in order to “dominate” protestors using their first amendment rights.

We ask now, as we did in 2018 when the President asked governors to send National Guard troops to the border to separate families, that if the call is made to send our brave men and women who serve in New Hampshire’s National Guard to Washington, D.C. - or anywhere else - to break up peaceful protests, that you refuse.

New Hampshire has been a model example of peaceful protest. In Manchester, local police escorted protestors through the streets and helped to ensure public safety. In Conway, Hampton, and Dover we have seen protestors working to maintain social distance and wear cloth face coverings as they respect public health guidance while still standing together against systemic injustice. As we have all said throughout this pandemic, we are stronger together.

We proudly stand with New Hampshire citizens who are taking action to oppose systemic racism in productive and positive ways, often in conjunction with members of local law enforcement.

This is a time for all public officials to listen to the protests and identify paths forward to ensure that every Granite Stater has the right to live free. While our National Guard members have been instrumental in our response to COVID-19, they should not be sent out of state to fight against Americans' freedom of speech.

We appreciate the steps you have taken thus far in support of the protests taking place across the state. When the time comes that New Hampshire is asked to fight in an unjust battle, we ask that you lead New Hampshire in standing on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Soucy /s/
Senate President

Stephen Shurtleff /s/
Speaker of the House