

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

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Governor Ducey:

We appreciate your decision last week to use Arizona National Guard troops to assist with contact tracing. But as the outbreak in Arizona grows, we continue to face a crisis of inadequate COVID-19 testing throughout the state. We are writing to inquire about any plans to deploy the National Guard to provide logistical and staffing support for conducting COVID-19 testing, especially in underserved areas, areas with spikes in cases, and areas with high COVID-19 positive test rates. Additionally, given that many hotspots are on tribal lands, we urge you to work with tribal leaders, in a manner that is respectful of their sovereignty, to provide testing assistance in tribal communities that would like it.

As you know, the demand for coronavirus testing outpaces both the supply of tests and the speed at which health workers can administer and process them. This lack of testing makes it particularly difficult for the uninsured, low-income families, and immigrant communities to access a test in a timely manner. Long result processing times leave gaps in our system when individuals may not take appropriate action to isolate.

For example, the St. Vincent De Paul free community testing site in South Phoenix is receiving approximately 600 calls daily, even though their maximum capacity is limited to just 100 to 150 tests per day. Further, on June 20, almost 1,000 people in Maryvale waited up to 13 hours for free testing, and many were ultimately turned away. There have been reports in Yuma county of results taking as long as 8-10 days. This lack of access to testing in underserved areas exacerbates existing health inequities and impedes our ability to contain the spread of the virus.

We appreciate your willingness to use National Guard troops to assist in the “testing blitz” which ended in early June, and we would like to know what action you intend to take as our state experiences its highest surges in cases since the pandemic began. It is our understanding that a unit of the Arizona National Guard has the capability to rapidly deploy and help administer

COVID-19 tests. It is imperative that resources are rapidly deployed particularly in underserved and vulnerable areas in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know what the federal government and Congress can do to help facilitate more testing to save lives and help contain the spread of the virus in our state.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

/s/

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

/s/

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress