

RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY, CHAIRMAN

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
RICK SCOTT, FLORIDA
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI
BERNIE MORENO, OHIO
JONI ERNST, IOWA
ASHLEY MOODY, FLORIDA

GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
JOHN FETTERMAN, PENNSYLVANIA
ANDY KIM, NEW JERSEY
RUBEN GALLEGO, ARIZONA
ELISSA SLOTKIN, MICHIGAN

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 13, 2025

Dear Chairman Paul,

We call on you, as Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC), to immediately hold a hearing on the Trump Administration's escalatory deployment of 4,000 federalized National Guardsmen and 700 active-duty Marines to Los Angeles, California against the objections of California's Governor and express warnings of state and local law enforcement officials. These actions make our communities less safe, threaten to undermine state governments' rights throughout the United States and politicize the role of the military in our nation.¹

Maintaining public safety is the job of local law enforcement. We strongly condemn violence and support the right to peaceful protest. Local law enforcement have been dealing with these protests and both elected officials and law enforcement leaders on the ground have cautioned that sending federal service members is unhelpful.² Governor Newsom, the commander in chief of the California National Guard, has specifically called for the President to defederalize the Guard and remove these service members.³

Nevertheless, the President has harmed public safety by federalizing a state's National Guard against the wishes of the governor and sending them into a city whose law enforcement is

¹ Plaintiffs' Ex Parte Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (Jun 9, 2025), *Gavin Newsom v. Donald Trump; Pete Hegseth*, D.Cal.(No. 3:25 CV 04870) (https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/FILE_6878.pdf); Governor Gavin Newsom: *Governor Newsom filed emergency motion to block Trump's unlawful militarization of Los Angeles* (Jun 10, 2025) (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/06/10/governor-newsom-files-emergency-motion-to-block-trumps-unlawful-militarization-of-los-angeles/>).

² Gavin Newsom, X post (Jun 8, 2025, 6:27 p.m.) (<https://x.com/GavinNewsom/status/1931840646773715068>) "We didn't have a problem until Trump got involved. This is a serious breach of state sovereignty — inflaming tensions while pulling resources from where they're actually needed."; Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD): *LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell Responds to Possible Deployment of Marines to Los Angeles* (June 10, 2025). (<https://www.lapdonline.org/newsroom/lapd-chief-jim-mcdonnell-responds-to-possible-deployment-of-marines-to-los-angeles-nr25120wc/>) "the possible arrival of federal military forces in Los Angeles—absent clear coordination—presents a significant logistical and operational challenge for those of us charged with safeguarding this city. The Los Angeles Police Department, alongside our mutual aid partners, have decades of experience managing large-scale public demonstrations, and we remain confident in our ability to do so professionally and effectively."; City of Los Angeles: *Mayor Karen Bass Issues Statement following Trump Administration's "chaotic Escalation"* (<https://mayor.lacity.gov/news/mayor-bass-issues-statement-following-trump-administrations-chaotic-escalation>) "Deploying federalized troops on the heels of these raids is a chaotic escalation".


³ Gavin Newsom, X post (Jun 8, 2025, 6:27 p.m.) (<https://x.com/GavinNewsom/status/1931840646773715068>) "I have formally requested the Trump Administration rescind their unlawful deployment of troops in Los Angeles county and return them to my command."

already dealing with the protests. President Trump has now ordered active-duty Marines to deploy to a city within our own country, a further meritless and dangerous escalation. There are reports that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has requested Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to direct service members to detain and arrest lawbreakers, provide munitions, and begin preparing active-duty service members to “aid in developing SOPs (standard operating procedures) and TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures)” for future situations.⁴

The U.S. military has been barred from serving as law enforcement in the United States since after Reconstruction.⁵ While the service members that the President has deployed are not yet officially carrying out law enforcement responsibilities, having them protect federal buildings and missions and putting them on the ground could lead to unintentional engagements that further escalate the situation and may ultimately lead the President to violate Posse Comitatus or use the events as a pretext to invoke the Insurrection Act. This is counter to every tenet of a free society.

The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is the U.S. Senate’s chief oversight committee and has a strong tradition under Republican and Democratic leadership of holding the Executive Branch accountable to the law and to the American people. This is all the more important given the recent use of force and handcuffing of a Senator seeking answers for his constituents. We therefore call on you to immediately hold an oversight hearing with Administration officials, including Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, to provide answers regarding the administration’s dangerous and intentionally provocative actions.

Sincerely,



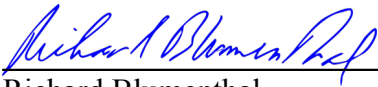
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



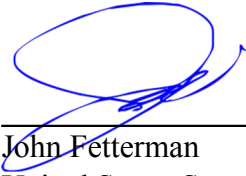
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

⁴ *Exclusive: DHS Secretary seeks military arrests in Los Angeles in leaked letter*, San Francisco Chronicle (Jun 9, 2025) (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/us-world/article/noem-immigration-protests-letter-20369001.php>).

⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 1385. The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 explicitly bars the use of the military to execute domestic law enforcement. There are limited exceptions to this Act.



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator