

My name is John P Gallo, I am a retired Cmsgt, having served over forty-two years in the RIANG. Below is my testimony against H-5378.

There are several potential negatives to requiring a congressional vote to activate the National Guard:

1. **Delays in Response Time:** The process of obtaining congressional approval can be time-consuming, which could delay the deployment of the National Guard in urgent situations, such as natural disasters or civil unrest.
2. **Political Gridlock:** The need for congressional approval could lead to political gridlock, especially if there is disagreement among lawmakers about the necessity or scope of the activation.
3. **Reduced Flexibility:** Requiring congressional approval might reduce the flexibility of state governors and the President to quickly respond to emergencies.
4. **Increased Bureaucracy:** Adding another layer of approval could increase bureaucratic hurdles, making it more difficult to mobilize the National Guard efficiently.
5. **Potential for Partisanship:** The activation of the National Guard could become a partisan issue, with decisions being influenced by political considerations rather than the actual needs on the ground.
6. **Strain on Resources:** The process of seeking congressional approval could strain resources, both in terms of time and money, which might be better spent on immediate response efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

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