



HOUSE OF DELEGATES WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

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December 4, 2025

The Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker
West Virginia House of Delegates
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room 228M
Charleston, WV 25305

The Honorable J. B. Akers, Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room 418M
Charleston, WV 25305

The Honorable Randy Smith, President
West Virginia Senate
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room 229M
Charleston, WV 25305

The Honorable Tom Willis, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room 210W
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Chairman Akers, and Chairman Willis:

On behalf of the West Virginia House Democratic Caucus, we respectfully request that the leadership of both legislative chambers schedule a **joint interim oversight meeting** during the January 2026 interim session. We ask that this proceeding be held under the joint jurisdiction of the **Judiciary** and **Veterans Affairs** committees of both the House and the Senate.

The tragic attack on West Virginia National Guard member SPC Sarah Beckstrom and Sgt. Andrew Wolfe shocked the conscience of not just West Virginians, but an entire nation. Governor Morrisey's decision to order members of the West Virginia National Guard to Washington, D.C. without input, approval, or updates to the West Virginia Legislature raises questions surrounding the authority and process under which the deployment was directed. Furthermore, no information has been provided as to the operational nature of the mission, the goal of the mission or an assessment of the risk and duty of care provided to our Guard members. West Virginians fully expect and deserve transparency and accountability when such decisions are made.

This request is made with deep respect for the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the West Virginia National Guard. The Legislature shares in the duty to ensure they are deployed lawfully, purposefully, and with the utmost caution regarding their safety.

To properly fulfill our oversight responsibility, we request the presence and testimony of the West Virginia National Guard and representatives of the Office of the Governor, including any personnel responsible for deployment authority.

As lawmakers, we must be fully informed about the decisions that led to this deployment to guide future decision-making to safeguard our personnel and uphold constitutional and statutory requirements.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request and look forward to collaboration across party lines to ensure that the people of West Virginia receive the transparency and accountability they deserve, especially those who serve our state and country in uniform.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

West Virginia House Democratic Caucus