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www.chrissmith.house.gov

March 4, 2021

General Daniel R. Hokanson
Chief of the National Guard Bureau
1636 Defense Pentagon
Arlington, VA 20301

Dear General Hokanson:

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss credible reports of National Guard personnel deployed at the Capitol—including approximately 30 from my home state of New Jersey—who became sick from tainted food served to them by a private sector vendor.

I have been advised that some members of the Guard are using their own funds to purchase meals through available congressional food vendors and elsewhere. I urge you to provide food per diem to help ensure safety. And, I respectfully request that you explore the feasibility of using one of the congressional cafeterias currently closed—such as the Rayburn cafeteria—for the exclusive use for food service for the Guard.

Yesterday, I sent a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, urging that the contractor providing the meals be immediately terminated. Speaker Pelosi's spokesman [reportedly indicated](#) that she agrees.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to meeting with you in person or discussing this matter with you on the phone as soon as possible. Please contact me directly at 202-225-3765.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith".

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress