



# Duckworth Urges Biden Administration To Take Swift Action On Military Hunger

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WASHINGTON— Combat Veteran and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), a member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) who served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years, is urging President Biden to take action to address discrepancies that contribute to perpetuating food insecurity in the military by blocking servicemembers from qualifying for certain federal nutrition assistance.

In part, the Senator wrote: “Just as we have seen heartbreaking examples of increasing numbers Americans requiring nutrition assistance for the very first time over the past year, our Nation’s military families have also needed more help to make sure they have enough to eat. The officials you appointed to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) should act quickly to cease considering monthly Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) as earned income when determining a military household’s eligibility for USDA nutritional programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.”

Duckworth continued, “By including BAH as earned income, far too many military families are cut off from USDA nutrition assistance programs and must turn to their communities instead. This may explain why we already see food pantries and food banks operating on or near many military installations. Unfortunately, the Trump administration failed to fix these antiquated bureaucratic formula discrepancies that treat BAH as earned income for members of the U.S. Armed Forces, despite bipartisan support for making this change.”

Duckworth has long advocated for hunger assistance and greater attention to this issue among our servicemembers and their families. In June, Duckworth [led a bipartisan letter](#) making this request to former Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. She has [introduced](#) bipartisan legislation that sought to exclude the value of a housing allowance for a member of a uniformed service from any income, assets, or resources calculation for

determining eligibility for any federal program issuing benefits for nutrition assistance. She also successfully secured an NDAA [provision](#) that required the U.S. Department of Defense to coordinate with USDA to collect data on the number of active-duty servicemembers who are using federal food assistance so the military has the information necessary to effectively ensure no one willing to risk their lives for our nation struggles to put food on the table for their families.

A full copy of the letter is available below and [here](#).