

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2021

Sen. Bernie Sanders, Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. John Yarmuth, Chairman
House Budget Committee
204-E Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Sanders and Yarmuth:

We face a crisis in the quality and capacity of facilities for child care for military families and housing for unaccompanied military personnel. The U.S. military has 135 child development centers in “Poor” or “Failing” condition, and in 2020 DoD reported nearly 9,000 children of servicemembers on waitlists with immediate need for child care. We have seen barracks that remind us of tenements and are wholly unacceptable for servicemembers to live in. The Army alone needs \$10 billion to bring its barracks to “Good” condition.

Annual appropriations are not sufficient to resolve this backlog—and meet our moral responsibility to provide servicemembers and military families with quality facilities with sufficient capacity for child care and decent, safe, modern housing. We believe that the upcoming reconciliation package is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do right by our military families. We request that you include the House and Senate Armed Services Committees in the reconciliation instructions in the upcoming budget resolution for the purpose of devoting \$5 billion to military child development center facilities projects and \$10 billion to barracks modernization. Such an investment will improve the quality of life and safety for servicemembers, promote the positive development of military children, and help military spouses obtain and maintain employment, further supporting the financial health of military families. It is one of the most important things we can do as a Congress to show support for the men and women who put their lives on the line for America.

Thank you for considering this request as you assemble this package to invest in the critical needs of Americans.

Sincerely,



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
UNITED STATES SENATOR

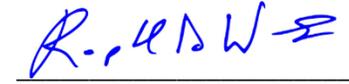


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