

June 01, 2023

The Honorable Mike Rogers
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith:

The undersigned organizations are writing to ask Congress to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100 percent — a step that would create a positive ripple effect on the well-being of those who serve and their families. In many cases, BAH fails to cover the intended 95 percent. Recent [surveys](#)¹ show out-of-pocket costs for servicemembers and their families average over \$250 per month, well over DoD-estimated amounts to cover the 5 percent gap. Nearly 70 percent of active duty families [report](#)² having to pay more than they can comfortably afford for housing.

We share the following for consideration in advance of the report that DoD will deliver to Congress on the examination of the accuracy of BAH and housing profiles:

- **Families, in many cases, are paying beyond what DoD intends.** Previous years' military pay increases lagged which, combined with a volatile housing market and record inflation, led to increased financial challenges, especially for junior enlisted families.
- **Restoration would offset the choice many face between paying for housing or paying for other basic necessities.** Active duty families who pay more than their BAH for housing every month are significantly more likely to experience food insecurity, as identified by the USDA Food Security Scale.
- **Increasing BAH to 100 percent will help ensure the long-term sustainability of military housing.** The five percent increase would provide critical funding for military housing improvements amid labor shortages and pandemic-related material cost increases.
- **Service members who live on base have 100 percent of their housing costs covered by BAH, yet only 30 percent of military families have the option of living on base.**

We appreciate your leadership and focus on identifying ways to better care for our servicemembers and their families. Success in implementing BAH restoration is an important step toward safeguarding the economic security of our military families in the face of extraordinary pressures. This action will reinforce your commitment to those who provide the solid foundation for our Force.

¹ Blue Star Families. Pulse Check: Relocation and Housing. September 2022.

https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/BSF_PulseCheck_Report_Sep2022.pdf

² Military Family Advisory Network. 2021 Military Family Support Programming Survey. June 2022.

<https://www.mfan.org/researchreports/2021-military-family-support-programming-survey-results-2/>

Sincerely,

The undersigned list of supporting military and veteran organizations.

Air Force Aid Society, Inc.	Military Spouse JD Network
Air Force Sergeants Association	MILLIE
American Red Cross	National Military Family Association
Armed Services YMCA	Operation Homefront
Association of Military Banks of America	Partners in PROMISE
Blue Star Families	RallyPoint
Code of Support Foundation	Safe Military Housing Initiative
Cohen Veterans Network	Secure Families Initiative
Defense Credit Union Council	Student Veterans of America
Dixon Center for Military & Veterans Services	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
Elizabeth Dole Foundation	The American Legion
Hope For The Warriors	Tricare for Kids Coalition
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America	UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
Jewish War Veterans of the USA	United Through Reading
JWB Jewish Chaplains Council	U.S. Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce
Lauren Hope Collective	Veterans of Foreign Wars
Military Family Advisory Network	Vets' Community Connections
Military Officers Association of America	Wounded Warrior Project
Military Spouse Advocacy Network	

cc:

Chairman Ken Calvert, House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

Ranking Member Betty McCollum, House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee