

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

It has come to our attention that servicemembers in Georgia are experiencing significant delays waiting for on-base housing at military installations. In some cases, servicemembers and their families are spending more than 60 days waiting for appropriate housing, necessitating lengthy stays in temporary lodging that is often inadequate for the size and composition of these military families.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that service members are only compensated for up to 14 days for temporary lodging during their permanent change of station (PCS) move, with all days in excess to be covered by the servicemember's basic allowance for housing (BAH). Due to wait times that far exceed the time a military family spends on PCS status, our constituents are experiencing unacceptable costs that often exceed the prevailing BAH rate, necessitating out-of-pocket expenses to house their families and for other living expenses such as food and the storage of belongings.

Accordingly, we ask that you provide base-specific data regarding housing waitlists at Georgia's military installations, to include the number of service members currently on housing waitlists, their distribution by rank, and the duration of their time on the waitlist. We also ask that you provide additional information on DoD's housing wait list policies, what the Department is doing to mitigate excessive wait times, and what support DoD does and does not provide to families experiencing wait times greater than 10 days from their date of arrival at the gaining installation.

We would also like more information about what DoD assesses to be the driver of excessive housing wait times, how the DoD ensures that temporary lodging is adequate and does not create undue hardship for military families, and what additional resources or authorities are needed to prevent such hardship.

Thank you for your prompt response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



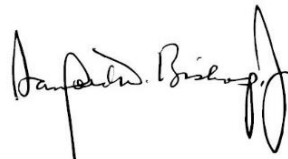
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
Member of Congress