

2017 - 2023

# TERM IN REVIEW

OFFICE OF

**U.S. SENATOR  
TAMMY DUCKWORTH**





U.S. SENATOR

# TAMMY DUCKWORTH

## **U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth**

(D-IL) released her first Term in Review, highlighting her work and accomplishments for the people of Illinois throughout the past six years. The new report outlines Duckworth's efforts to champion and pass legislation to help working families get ahead and keep more of their hard-earned money, protect our communities from crime and gun violence, defend women's rights, create good-paying jobs across the state, help bring environmental justice to overlooked communities in Illinois, support our allies in Ukraine and improve the lives of servicemembers, Veterans and military families.

Throughout her six years in the U.S. Senate, Duckworth focused on

being an effective, pragmatic and caring leader for all Illinoisans. Her dedication to the working families of Illinois helped make her one of the most effective members of the U.S. Senate according to the Center for Effective Lawmaking, which ranked her as **one of the top five most effective Democratic Senators overall in the 116th Congress** and the most effective freshman Democratic Senator in the 115th Congress. **In her first term, 10 Duckworth bills were signed into law**, and she authored dozens of critical provisions in larger legislative packages like the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*, the *American Rescue Plan*, the yearly *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* and the *Water Resources and Development Act*. Duckworth also co-founded the Senate's first-ever **Environmental Justice Caucus** in 2019.

# SERVING ILLINOIS

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In Senator Duckworth's first term, **her office assisted more than 16,000 Illinoisans experiencing difficulties** navigating the federal bureaucracy, dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 or receiving federal benefits they were owed. These efforts **helped Illinois families recover more than \$8 million** they were owed in Social Security payments, Veterans' benefits, tax refunds and more. Her office responded to **more than 5,564,720 emails and other messages**.

## BY THE NUMBERS

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Responded to **more than 5.5 million emails and other messages**



Recovered **more than \$8 million for Illinoisans** struggling to receive the benefits they've earned



**10 bills signed into law**





## SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

- Helping thousands of Illinoisans by lowering costs for prescription drugs.
- Capping out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Lowering costs at the pump by holding Big Oil accountable for price gouging.
- \$1,200 stimulus checks during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE AND SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

- Worked to pass one of the most significant commonsense gun safety reforms to become law in a generation.
- Working to ban the sale of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition.
- Supporting police officers, firefighters and emergency responders.



## PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- Defender of women's rights.
- Working to enshrine Roe v. Wade's protections into law.
- Protecting our female troops and Veterans access to the care they need.

## ADVOCATING FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

- Secured the most significant expansion of paid parental leave for American troops in our nation's history.
- Led efforts to help get formula back on the shelves.
- Wrote laws to make traveling easier for nursing mothers.



## BRINGING JOBS, BUSINESS AND FUNDING

- Set the record for getting a bill signed into law after becoming a Senator.
- Helping our state rebuild roads and bridges, improve public transportation systems, expand broadband and grow our electric vehicle charging networks.
- Cutting traffic and saving drivers time and money.
- Bringing billions in foreign investment to our state.



## PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLEAN WATER

- Passed the law that's cleaning up our nation's drinking water, creating good paying jobs and fixing our nation's dangerous water infrastructure.
- Removing lead pipes and modernizing failing water systems.
- Protecting families from harmful chemicals like PFAS.
- Advancing environmental justice efforts to ensure Americans can breathe clean air and drink safe water.

## PURSUING CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY AND EQUALITY

- Working to safeguard voting rights.
- Restoring trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.
- Ensuring police officers have the resources they need.





# SUPPORTING OUR ALLIES

- Supporting Ukrainian successful efforts to beat back Putin’s invasion.
- Helping Ukrainian and Afghan allies and civilians resettle in America.
- Reuniting families.
- Wrote the law creating an independent, nonpartisan commission to ensure we never make the same mistakes that we made in our 20 years in Afghanistan.

# FIGHTING FOR OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

- Secured the most significant expansion of paid parental leave for American troops in our nation’s history.
- Working to end military hunger.
- Helping our Veterans get the healthcare they’ve earned and deserve.
- Protecting Peoria’s 182nd Airlift Wing.



# SUPPORTING AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

- Helping Americans with disabilities get to work on public transit or fly wherever they want to go.
- Encouraging businesses across the country to become fully accessible.
- Protecting the rights of Americans with disabilities.





# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## Saving Working Families Money

Senator Duckworth championed and secured key provisions in the *Inflation Reduction Act*, a law that is helping thousands of Illinoisans by lowering costs for life-saving prescription drugs, capping out-of-pocket costs of insulin for Medicare beneficiaries at \$35 per month and \$2,000 per year for other medications. She is also leading the charge to help lower costs at the pump for working Illinoisans by authoring the **[Gas Price Gouging Prevention Act](#)** that would help prevent the oil industry from price gouging on gas and pushing to allow year-round sales of E15 fuel, which reduces the United States' reliance on foreign sources of energy and lowers costs. The Senator also led several provisions in the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* that are **[helping save families money on their water bills as well as saving them on gas and auto maintenance costs](#)** by helping reduce traffic congestion. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Duckworth also supported and helped pass the *American Rescue Plan (ARP)*, which sent additional \$1,200 stimulus checks to working families to help them pay their bills.

## Keeping Our Communities Safe from Gun Violence and Supporting First Responders

Senator Duckworth worked to pass one of the most significant commonsense gun safety reforms to become law in a generation, the **[Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#)** which provides \$1 billion for community-based violence prevention programs and efforts to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of dangerous people to help curb our nation's gun violence epidemic and stop gun crimes before they can happen. In the aftermath of the preventable, horrific July 4th massacre in Highland Park, Duckworth immediately went to the city, **[spoke out](#)** and later delivered **[impassioned](#)** opening remarks at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee calling for more to be done to protect our communities from mass shootings. She also helped introduce the **[Background Check Expansion Act](#)** to ensure federal background

checks for all gun sales, as well as the **Assault Weapons Ban of 2019**, which would ban the sale of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. The Senator also voted to send critical resources to communities during the pandemic to help prevent police officers and other first responders from being laid off. As part of her work to support police officers, firefighters and emergency responders, Duckworth got her bipartisan *Public Safety Officer Support Act* **signed into law** to support the families of officers who struggle with mental health or who are lost to trauma-linked suicides.

## Protecting Women's Rights

Senator Duckworth is a champion and staunch defender of a woman's right to choose and worked to ensure that all women—no matter their income or zip code—have equal access to full reproductive healthcare. She is working to reverse the Supreme Court's dangerous ruling that struck down Roe v. Wade and enshrine its protections into law, and she introduced the **Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Woman Act** as well as supported the *Women's Health Protection Act*, which she **vocally criticized** Republicans for blocking. After she **urged** Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to proactively protect servicemembers' abortion rights, the Department of Defense announced several new protections and services to ensure our female troops can access the healthcare they need. Duckworth also **pushed back** against Republican attacks against the Biden Administration's efforts to protect female Veterans' access to care.

## Advocating for Parents and Children

Senator Duckworth secured the most significant expansion of **paid parental leave for American troops** in our nation's history, writing the law that allows them to take up to 12 weeks to care for their child in the year following a birth or adoption, or placement of a minor child for foster care. With far too many Americans still having to choose between their careers and caring for newborns or ailing loved ones, Duckworth is also pushing to ensure all working families **have access** to 12 weeks of paid leave and to help more families afford **childcare**. Duckworth's bipartisan **Friendly Airports for Mother's (FAM) Act**



Sen. Tammy Duckworth





and **FAM Improvement Act** were signed into law to make traveling easier for nursing mothers by requiring airports to provide clean, accessible, private rooms in every terminal for the first time, and President Biden also signed her bipartisan **Safe Cribs Act** to protect infants' lives by banning the sale of padded crib bumpers. During the infant formula shortage in 2022, Duckworth led numerous efforts—including helping introduce the bipartisan **Access to Baby Formula Act** that was signed into law—to help get formula back on the shelves as quickly as possible and make sure our nation took the measures necessary to ensure a similar shortage doesn't leave parents and infants at risk ever again.

## Bringing Jobs, Business and Funding

Senator Duckworth secured **multiple provisions** in the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* that are helping our state rebuild roads and bridges, improve public transportation systems, expand broadband and grow our electric vehicle charging networks. With Chicago drivers each **losing 104 hours** sitting in traffic last year alone, her provision to **decrease traffic congestion** in major metropolitan areas will save Illinoisans both time and money spent on gas and auto maintenance while reducing air pollution. The Senator strongly supported the **CHIPS and Science Act** that is supporting local manufacturing, growing our economy and strengthening our nation's science and manufacturing competitiveness with China, and she championed the **Inflation Reduction Act**, which provides \$500 million to expand the number of service stations that offer low-carbon ethanol and biodiesel, made from Illinois corn and soybeans.

Duckworth **led a Congressional delegation to Asia** to bring foreign investment to our state, which helped lead to a joint venture between Illinois's ADM and South Korea's LG Chem, as well as a **commitment from Taiwan** to purchase an estimated \$2.6 billion of our state's corn and soybeans. Together with Senator Dick Durbin, Duckworth also **secured \$211 million in Congressionally-directed spending for Illinois projects** that will help clean up our water, improve our state's infrastructure, expand healthcare access, create jobs and tackle environmental injustice issues facing communities across Illinois.

**The first Senate bill Duckworth introduced became law just four months into her term as Senator**, marking the fastest time any current Senator had passed a bill after being sworn in. Her bipartisan law supports Illinois jobs and prevents infrastructure projects from becoming ensnared in needless bureaucratic delays by rolling back a misguided U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rule that enabled governors of neighboring states to delay or block infrastructure improvements in Illinois. A DOT analysis estimated the law will save taxpayers \$86.3 million annually.

## Promoting Environmental Justice and Clean Water

As founding Co-Chair of the Senate's first-ever **Environmental Justice Caucus**, Senator Duckworth wrote the *Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act (DWWIA)*, which was **signed into law** and is putting Americans back to work fixing and upgrading our nation's crumbling, dangerous water infrastructure. Through her leadership, Illinois—which has the most known lead service lines of any state—is dramatically accelerating projects to remove lead pipes and protect children against permanent, irreversible brain damage. Duckworth's *DWWIA* is also enabling communities like **Cahokia Heights** to repair and modernize failing wastewater systems that flood raw sewage onto residents' properties whenever there's a heavy rain and better protect families from forever chemicals like PFAS while creating good-paying, local jobs. Duckworth also led efforts to ensure the air our children and families breathe is free of dangerous pollutants like cancer-causing **ethylene oxide (EtO)** in **Waukegan** and **Willowbrook** as well as toxic pollutants from RMG facilities on **Chicago's Southeast Side**. She wrote the **STRANDED Act** to help communities like Zion that are struggling with the impacts of stranded nuclear waste by incentivizing economic development and providing federal assistance to offset the economic hardships caused by stranded nuclear waste.

## Pursuing Civil Rights, Equity and Equality

In honor of the legacy of John Lewis—one of America's greatest civil rights heroes—Senator Duckworth helped introduce





the **[John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#)** to restore the full protections of the landmark *Voting Rights Act* and end the scourge of voter suppression. To restore trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, Duckworth introduced the **[Police Training and Independent Review Act](#)** to prevent police-involved deaths and encourage independent and impartial investigations into law enforcement officials' use of deadly force. Her legislation was included as a main pillar in the **[Justice in Policing Act of 2020](#)** comprehensive police reform proposal, which she was a lead sponsor of as well. She also helped introduce the *COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act*, which President Biden **[signed](#)** into law, and the **[Equality Act of 2019](#)**, a comprehensive and bipartisan bill to ban discrimination against LGBTQ Americans.

Senator Duckworth also strengthened the SBA Microloan Program by passing legislation to leverage approximately \$64 million in support of minority-owned small businesses and other underserved small business interests. And she led multiple efforts to help ensure our national monuments tell the full story of our nation's history, including her **[Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act](#)** to designate the 1908 Race Riot Sites in Springfield as a national monument and **[pushing for the site of Emmett Till's memorial service to be designated as part of the National Park System.](#)**

## Fighting for Our Troops and Veterans

As a combat Veteran who served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years, Senator Duckworth has always been a fierce advocate for our national security, troops and military families. In addition to securing the most significant expansion of **[paid parental leave for American troops](#)** in our nation's history, the Senator is leading the effort to end military hunger caused by unintended barriers that make military families ineligible for essential nutrition assistance programs, **[introducing a bipartisan bill](#)**, portions of which were signed into law and **[building upon that success](#)** to ensure more military families become eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Senator Duckworth was also able to **[safeguard the mission of Peoria's 182nd Airlift Wing](#)** and protect the jobs of 1,250 Airmen and

and approximately 370 full-time employees, as well as **help secure** \$120 million for the Rock Island Arsenal, which employs more than 6,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel.

Senator Duckworth has also remained a staunch advocate for our Veterans. Because too many Veterans discover years later that their service to our nation resulted in health issues tied to exposure to burn pits or other toxic materials, the Senator proudly **supported** the PACT Act that is now law and the VA's processes for toxic-exposed Veterans so these brave warriors can get the care they need for service-connected illnesses. She also led the successful effort to **help Chicagoan and U.S. combat Veteran Miguel Perez, Jr.**, return to the United States after he was failed multiple times by our nation and cruelly deported by the Trump Administration, and she is pushing **for legislative changes** to prevent Veterans from being deported as well as help them access the healthcare benefits they earned through their service. And the Senator was successful in getting her bipartisan **Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act** to help entrepreneurs who served launch and grow their businesses signed into law.

## Supporting Our Allies

In **response** to Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine, Senator Duckworth worked to ensure our allies there had the support necessary to beat back Russian troops and to help the Ukrainian people, including **calling for** accelerated sales of U.S. M1A2 SEPv3 tanks to Poland, **supporting** significant aid packages, **requesting** and **securing** Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukrainians in the United States, **meeting** with members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) Illinois Division, speaking out on the Senate floor **in support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community in Illinois**, helping quickly **reunite with her family in Chicago a woman who had been inappropriately detained by U.S. authorities for months after fleeing Ukraine** and hosting a **discussion** that brought together members of Chicago's Ukrainian community with officials from the U.S. National Security Council to help provide residents with updates from the Biden Administration on its efforts in Ukraine. With our nation's withdrawal from Afghanistan, Duckworth led **efforts** to





help keep our word to Afghan allies who supported our mission there—often at **great danger, cost and sacrifice to themselves and their loved ones**. The Senator also **wrote the law** that created an independent, nonpartisan commission to examine every aspect of the war and produce actionable recommendations for reforms that ensure our nation not only learns the right lessons from our 20 years in Afghanistan, but ensure the same mistakes are never made again.

## Supporting Americans with Disabilities

Understanding that everyone is just one accident away from having a disability and that each of us who lives long enough will eventually develop a disability, Senator Duckworth worked hard since arriving in the Senate to support Americans with disabilities and protect their rights. She wrote the **All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) Act** that's now law and will provide \$1.75 billion over the next five years to help build ramps, install elevators and make other improvements to ensure that all of America's public transit stations are finally usable for everyone. As a result of a **law** she wrote to ensure American travelers with disabilities are able to make informed decisions about which airlines to fly on and which to avoid, the U.S. Department of Transportation released data for the first time **revealing just how many wheelchairs and motorized scooters passenger airlines damage each month**. After the then-Republican House of Representatives passed a bill to gut the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reward businesses that failed to make their facilities accessible to people with disabilities, Duckworth assembled a coalition of Senators to successfully **block the bill** from becoming law—and then introduced the **Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act** to incentivize small businesses to comply with the ADA as well as **legislation to help break down barriers** that Americans with disabilities still face with websites and applications, which all Americans rely on for employment, commerce, education, public services and all other aspects of society.

# TERM IN REVIEW

## CONTENTS

**HELPING WORKING ILLINOISANS GET AHEAD.....14**

- SAVING WORKING FAMILIES MONEY ..... 14
- ADVOCATING FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN .....15
- HELPING MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE .....16
- PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL .....17

**KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE and PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS .....19**

- KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE .....19
- PROTECTING WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND SUPPORTING WOMEN .....20
- PURSUING CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY AND EQUALITY .....20
- ADVOCATING FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ..... 22
- SUPPORTING POLICE AND FIRST RESPONDERS..... 23
- DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY..... 23
- BRINGING JOBS, BUSINESS AND FUNDING TO ILLINOIS..... 25
- SUPPORTING OUR STATE THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC..... 27
- SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS .....28

**SUPPORTING THE TROOPS AND VETERANS..... 29**

- ENDING MILITARY HUNGER AND HELPING MILITARY FAMILIES.....31
- SUPPORTING OUR ALLIES ..... 32
- HELPING END MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA ..... 32



# HELPING WORKING ILLINOISANS GET AHEAD

## SAVING WORKING FAMILIES MONEY

- As Big Oil profits surged on rising gas prices as a result of Vladimir Putin's unjustifiable war in Ukraine, Senator Duckworth led the charge to help lower costs at the pump for working Illinoisans. She introduced the [Gas Price Gouging Prevention Act](#) that would help prevent the oil industry from price gouging on gas and [called on](#) President Biden to establish a Gasoline Price Gouging Enforcement Task Force to carefully monitor and investigate oil and gas markets for potential violations of criminal or civil laws. She also successfully called on the President to permit year-round sale of E15 fuel in order to reduce the United States' reliance on foreign sources of energy and lower costs, and she helped introduce the [Price Gouging Prevention Act of 2022](#) to prohibit price gouging during abnormal market disruptions as well as the [Home Front Energy Independence Act](#) to replace Russian oil with cleaner, lower-cost and American-made renewable fuels that are available right now.
- The *Inflation Reduction Act* that Senator Duckworth championed and secured key provisions in is helping thousands of Illinois's seniors and Black and Brown communities afford life-saving prescription drugs and, for the first time ever, allows Medicare to negotiate for lower medication costs. The law also caps out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35/month for Medicare beneficiaries and requires drug companies to offer a rebate to consumers when companies increase the price of their medications higher than the rate of inflation. In Illinois, the new law also helps the 59,000 Illinoisans on Medicare by capping their annual prescription drug costs at \$2,000 per year. Duckworth also [signed on as co-sponsor](#) of the *Affordable Insulin Now Act* to cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin for Illinoisans and all Americans, including those not covered by Medicare.
- To address the multi-employer pension crisis threatening the retirement of more than 1.3 million workers and retirees nationwide, Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [Butch Lewis Act](#) to protect the pensions these workers earned by creating a loan program to allow failing multi-employer pension plans to borrow the money necessary to ensure they can meet their commitments to retirees and workers for decades to come.
- Senator Duckworth led the introduction of the bipartisan [Relief for Working Families Act](#) that would authorize states to waive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) payments that were incorrectly provided to residents who acted in good faith and played no role in securing the surplus PUA overpayment. Senator Duckworth also [pressed the U.S. Department of Labor](#) to ensure that the workers who Congress intended to be covered by the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program were able to receive the benefits they deserved.
- Senator Duckworth helped lead the successful fight against Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans' efforts to repeal President Obama's *Affordable Care Act*, specifically highlighting the devastating impact and costs their repeal proposals would have had on Veterans, seniors, working families and people with preexisting conditions, including Americans with disabilities.
- Because all Americans deserve high-quality, affordable health coverage, Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [Choose Medicare Act](#) to give every individual who is not already eligible for Medicaid or Medicare the opportunity to enroll in Medicare.



## ADVOCATING FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

- Senator Duckworth secured the most significant expansion of [paid parental leave for American troops](#) in our nation's history, writing the law that allows them to take up to 12 weeks in the year following the birth or adoption of a child, or placement of a minor child for foster care.
- With far too many Americans still facing a choice between having a career and taking time off to care for a newborn or tend to an ailing loved one, Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [Family and Medical Insurance Leave \(FAMILY\) Act](#) to establish a comprehensive paid family and medical leave program that would provide 12 weeks of paid leave for workers across the country.
- To help ensure low- and middle-income families have access to affordable and high-quality child care, Senator Duckworth helped reintroduce the [Childcare for Working Families Act](#), which would ensure that no family earning under 150 percent of their state's median income pays more than seven percent of their income on child care.
- Duckworth's bipartisan [Friendly Airports for Mother's Act](#) (FAM Act) was signed into law in 2018 to make traveling easier for nursing mothers by requiring all large- and medium-sized airports to provide clean, accessible and private rooms in every terminal for the first time, as well as baby changing tables in men's and women's bathrooms. It also made grants available to help airports make these critical renovations. Building on the success of her [FAM Act](#), Duckworth's authored and passed the bipartisan [Friendly Airports for Mothers \(FAM\) Improvement Act](#) to ensure small airports across the country support nursing mothers and promote breastfeeding-friendly environments by providing accessible, clean and convenient lactation rooms for travelers as well. The Senate also unanimously passed Senator Duckworth's bipartisan [Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act](#) to help ensure new parents have access to clean and private lactation rooms when visiting federal buildings around the nation.
- During the nationwide infant formula shortage in 2022, Duckworth led numerous efforts to get formula back on the shelves as quickly as possible and make sure our nation took the measures necessary to ensure a similar shortage doesn't leave parents and infants at risk ever again. She helped introduce the bipartisan [Access to Baby Formula Act](#), which President Biden signed into law, and the [Protect Infants from Formula Shortages Act](#). She [urged](#) the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address extremely high levels of corporate concentration in the infant formula marketplace that could exacerbate shortages and, [following her letter](#) to Lina Khan, Chair of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), requesting a Section 6(b) wide-ranging study of the infant formula industry, the FTC [announced](#) it began an inquiry into this issue. Duckworth [secured](#) increased funding for Maternal and Infant Health programs at the Food and Drug Administration in the 2023 omnibus bill to help address shortages.
- Duckworth led the charge to get dangerous, deadly crib bumpers off the shelves of stores across our nation by authoring the bipartisan [Safe Cribs Act](#) that President Biden signed into law to protect infant lives by banning the sale of padded crib bumpers.
- Duckworth prioritized helping ensure families that need diapers—which are necessary for the health and development of infants and toddlers—are able to find and afford them. She successfully [secured](#) provisions in the American Rescue Plan based on her bipartisan [End Diaper Need Act](#). These provisions are helping provide low-income families with diapers and diapering supplies. She also introduced the bipartisan [Diaper Inclusion in Accounts for Parental Expense Reduction \(DIAPER\) Act](#) and helped secure \$10 million in funding for diaper banks in the 2022 appropriations package that was signed into law and which represented the first time in history that the federal government allocated funding for diaper banks, and a \$10 million [increase](#) in the 2023 omnibus bill.





- After Duckworth became the first Senator to give birth while serving in office, she pressed the Senate Rules Committee to allow infant children onto the Senate floor to make the institution friendlier to parents of newborn children. The Senate [unanimously agreed](#) to allow all Senators to bring their infant children under the age of 1 onto the Senate floor, if necessary, during votes, sending a message to the rest of the nation that all workplaces should support working families. Senators who are new parents can now execute their constitutional responsibility of voting on issues of national importance.
- To [help keep students safe](#) as they travel to and from school while also helping prevent school bus accidents, Senator Duckworth introduced the [School Bus Safety Act](#). The legislation, which was featured on the Today Show, would implement safety recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board to make school buses safer by ensuring there are seat belts at every seat and buses are equipped with safety measures like stability control and automatic braking systems.
- As part of her efforts to support new moms, Duckworth [introduced bipartisan legislation](#) to help parents and infants receive needed support, including guaranteeing nursing parents' ability to continue to breastfeed, during natural disasters and in times of crisis.
- Senator Duckworth [helped secure](#) \$250 million in additional emergency funding for Head Start, which helped it continue operating safely in providing early childhood education and other vital services to low-income children and family during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

## HELPING MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

- With student parents making up more than one-quarter of all college students in America, Senator Duckworth introduced her [Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools \(CCAMPIS\) Reauthorization Act](#) to help increase access to on-campus child care. She also led a successful effort to add [significant new funding for the CCAMPIS program](#) in the FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [21st Century American Service Act](#) to help make sure every young American who wants to serve their country in civilian service has the opportunity to do so and has an easier time affording college as a result. Her legislation would increase the number of service positions available through civilian national service organizations, educate all young Americans about the national service opportunities available to them and reduce financial barriers that prohibit some young Americans from serving.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic through Service \(CORPS\) Act](#), which would double the AmeriCorps positions available and provide an additional 600,000 national service opportunities in the years ahead. This legislation contains a number of provisions inspired by Senator Duckworth's [21st Century American Service Act](#), including increasing the living allowance to ensure individuals' financial resources do not limit participation, increasing the education award to offset two years of average in-state tuition and more. The *CORPS Act* builds upon the [Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act](#), which Duckworth also introduced.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Community College to Career \(CC2C\) Fund Act](#) to help new graduates find jobs and close the "skills gap" that makes it difficult for small businesses and other employers to find qualified candidates for unfilled jobs. Her legislation supports innovative partnerships between community colleges, technical colleges and businesses to train students to fill jobs.



## PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

- As founding Co-Chair of the Senate's first-ever Environmental Justice Caucus, Senator Duckworth wrote the *Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act* (DWWIA), which was [signed into law](#) as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is putting Americans back to work fixing and upgrading our nation's crumbling and dangerous water infrastructure. As a result of her leadership, Illinois—which contains the most known lead service lines of any state in the nation—will be able to dramatically accelerate projects to remove dangerous lead pipes and protect countless children against permanent, irreversible brain damage from drinking lead-contaminated water. Duckworth's DWWIA will also enable communities like Cahokia Heights to repair and modernize failing wastewater systems, better protect families from forever chemicals like PFAS and deliver environmental justice to communities in every corner of the state that have been ignored for too long—all while creating good-paying, local jobs. She also introduced the [National Opportunity for Lead Exposure Accountability and Deterrence \(NO LEAD\) Act](#) to help ensure drinking water across our nation is safe from lead and copper contamination as well as the bipartisan [Get the Lead out of Assisted Housing Act](#) to protect families living in assisted housing.
- Senator Duckworth led a years-long effort to protect all Illinoisans from cancer-causing ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions, leading the introduction of the [Expanding Transparency of Information and Safeguarding Toxics \(EtO is Toxic\) Act of 2019](#) to hold Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accountable for its poor oversight of the carcinogen's emissions. She repeatedly called on the [EPA to begin ambient air quality monitoring](#) in Lake County, [investigate](#) allegations made by former Sterigenics employees that the company intentionally violated the law and put their own employees in Willowbrook at risk and [launch an independent investigation](#) into whether the Trump Administration failed to protect the American public from EtO. Senator Duckworth also personally met with community members affected by EtO in [Waukegan](#) and [Willowbrook](#). Duckworth also introduced the [Public Health Air Quality Act](#) to require the EPA to implement immediate fence-line monitoring for toxic air pollutants at facilities contributing to high local cancer rates and other health threats from dangerous pollutants.
- After Senators Duckworth and Durbin called for enhanced monitoring and a review of the health risks associated with emissions from two Reserve Management Group (RMG) facilities in Chicago, the city's Department of Public Health denied RMG's permit to operate a scrap metal recycling facility on Chicago's Southeast Side. The city's denial followed findings from the Chicago Department of Public Health that potential adverse changes in air quality and quality of life would be caused by operations, and that health vulnerabilities in the surrounding communities—together with the company's track record in operating similar facilities within this campus—presented an unacceptable risk.
- Duckworth introduced the [Environmental Justice for All Act](#) to achieve health equity and climate justice for all, particularly for underserved communities and communities of color, and highlighted the importance of environmental justice by [inviting](#) Illinois-based environmental justice advocate Celeste Flores as her guest to the 2020 State of the Union Address.
- Senator Duckworth [helped ensure the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) under Trump did not close its Region 5 office](#), which employs nearly 1,000 workers and is headquartered in Chicago.
- Senator Duckworth, along with Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tom Carper (D-DE), founded the Senate's first-ever [Environmental Justice Caucus](#) to call attention to the many environmental justice issues affecting our nation and its people. Since its creation, the [Caucus](#) has worked to raise awareness of the environmental and pollution issues creating public health challenges that disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. In addition, the



Caucus aims to help those communities advocate for themselves to the Federal Government by providing expertise and assistance, drafting legislation and organizing Congressional hearings and other events.

- Senator Duckworth introduced the [\*Sensible, Timely Relief for America's Nuclear Districts' Economic Development \(STRANDED\) Act\*](#) to help communities like Zion, Illinois, that are struggling with the impacts of stranded nuclear waste by incentivizing economic development and providing federal assistance to offset the economic hardships caused by stranded nuclear waste. Duckworth also authored language that became law directing the Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce to identify what financial resources are currently available to communities with stranded nuclear waste. She also [called on leadership](#) of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to prioritize federal assistance to communities that are struggling with nuclear waste.
- After research discovered that children on the Southeast Side of Chicago have high levels of manganese exposure—a known neurotoxin that can negatively affect brain development, lead to permanent neurological disorders as well as decrease children’s learning and memory capacities—Senator Duckworth [requested](#) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) take immediate action to stop a company in the area from releasing unsafe levels of manganese into the air. Duckworth also [called for EPA](#) to remediate soil contaminated with manganese in the area.
- For centuries, our nation has relied on the sacrifices made by coal country—and coal workers—to industrialize and power our country with affordable energy, but changes in our economy have led to economic downturns in many coal communities. To address this growing problem, Senator Duckworth introduced the comprehensive [\*Marshall Plan for Coal Country Act\*](#) to help ensure that coal workers and coal communities have the resources they need to transition local economies to 21st century alternatives. Duckworth’s legislation would tackle these communities’ challenges by making significant investments in their overall health and economic security.
- To help reduce the spread of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) contamination at commercial airports, Duckworth introduced the bipartisan [\*Preventing PFAS Runoff at Airports Act\*](#), which [passed](#) the Senate unanimously and was [signed](#) into law
- Duckworth introduced the [\*Great Lakes Water Protection Act\*](#) to help end the dumping of untreated sewage waste into Lake Michigan and the entire Great Lakes Basin, as well as help improve water quality throughout the Great Lakes region—and she secured two major provisions in the [\*America’s Conservation Enhancement Act\*](#) to help support and protect the Great Lakes.



# KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE AND PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS

## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE

- Since being sworn in, Duckworth has pushed for legislation and actions to help reduce firearm violence in Illinois and nationwide. She introduced the [\*Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act\*](#) to prohibit unlicensed firearm ownership and the transfer of firearms without a valid license. She also fiercely supported the [\*Bipartisan Safer Communities Act\*](#), a package of commonsense gun safety reforms that provides \$1 billion for community-based violence prevention programs and efforts to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of dangerous people to help curb our nation’s gun violence epidemic and stop gun crimes before they can happen—legislation that President Biden [\*signed into law\*](#). Moreover, Duckworth [\*met\*](#) with local leaders and advocates on Chicago’s South Side to discuss the impacts of gun violence on Chicago’s neighborhoods and legislative action at the federal level to pass more commonsense gun safety legislation.
- Following the preventable, horrific Highland Park massacre that claimed the lives of seven Illinoisans, Duckworth immediately went to the city, [\*spoke out\*](#) at the scene, then later delivered [\*impassioned\*](#) opening remarks at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing focused on protecting our communities from mass shootings. Duckworth [\*participated\*](#) in an anti-gun violence rally to speak out about the need for additional commonsense gun safety reforms. She and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin [\*met\*](#) with residents of Highland Park and members of March Fourth, a gun safety advocacy group. In the wake of the Uvalde shooting, she issued a [\*statement\*](#) and spoke out on [\*the Senate floor\*](#) to beg her colleagues to suspend the chamber’s filibuster rule to pass overdue, obvious and commonsense gun safety legislation.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [\*Background Check Expansion Act\*](#) to ensure federal background checks for all gun sales, as well as the [\*Assault Weapons Ban of 2019\*](#), which would ban the sale, transfer, manufacture and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. The Senator also called on then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to act on the [\*Keep Americans Safe Act\*](#) to prohibit the transfer, importation or possession of magazines able to hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.



## PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND SUPPORTING WOMEN

- Duckworth has always championed and defended a woman's right to choose and worked to ensure that all women—no matter their income or zip code—have equal access to full reproductive care. When the Supreme Court issued its outrageous ruling that struck down *Roe v. Wade*, Duckworth [slammed](#) the decision. Prior to this decision, Duckworth [visited Hope Clinic](#), an abortion provider in the Metro East, to meet with the facility's leadership and discuss what was at stake. Duckworth also wrote [multiple letters](#) to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin urging him to protect servicemembers' abortion rights. She also [pushed back](#) against Republican attacks against the Biden Administration's efforts to protect female Veterans' access to care. She voted to pass the *Women's Health Protection Act*, which would help protect women's constitutional right to choose, and [spoke on the Senate floor](#) and [criticized](#) Republicans for blocking it. She's a lead sponsor of the [Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance \(EACH\) Woman Act](#) to help ensure every woman in this country has equal access to her constitutionally-protected rights, no matter her income, race or zip code.
- Duckworth's bipartisan *Protecting Moms Who Served Act* was [signed into law](#) to help address our nation's growing maternal mortality crisis by helping ensure that pregnancy complications of women Veterans are not overlooked or ignored.
- Duckworth led efforts on numerous fronts to support women's health, such as the [introduction](#) of a bipartisan resolution to recognize the significance of endometriosis as an unmet chronic disease for women and designating March 2022 as National Endometriosis Awareness Month as well as a [resolution](#) calling for an expansion of women's health research to close persistent gaps in funding for sex- and gender-based biomedical research.
- To help support women entrepreneurs, Duckworth authored a bill to help increase resources for female entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses—the bipartisan [Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise Act](#)—which passed the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- To better support breast cancer survivors and ensure they have the opportunity to achieve the best quality of life, Senator Duckworth introduced the bipartisan [Breast Cancer Patient Equity Act](#) to provide those who have experienced a mastectomy with access to custom breast prosthetics under Medicare. Currently, this is the only human body part prosthetic not covered under Medicare.

## PURSuing CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY AND EQUALITY

- To help restore trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve by helping prevent police-involved deaths and encourage independent and impartial investigations into law enforcement officials' use of deadly force, Senator Duckworth introduced the [Police Training and Independent Review Act](#), which is supported by a coalition of more than 90 Members of Congress as well as the NAACP. The NAACP also included her bill among its legislative priorities for the [115th](#) and [116th Congresses](#). Duckworth's bill would create a financial incentive for states to require training for law enforcement officials on fair and impartial policing as well as best practices for working with members of the community who are disabled or mentally ill. Duckworth's legislation was a main pillar of Senate Democrats' police reform proposal, the [Justice in Policing Act of 2020](#), of which she was a lead sponsor.



- Senator Duckworth helped introduced the [Equality Act of 2019](#), a comprehensive bipartisan bill to ban discrimination against LGBTQ Americans by amending existing federal civil rights laws to explicitly include protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Senator Duckworth helped pass the bipartisan [Respect for Marriage Act](#), which will protect marriage equality for same-sex and interracial couples.
- Senator Duckworth helped lead the opposition to Donald Trump’s policy of forcibly separating children from their parents at the border, calling on Trump to end the policy and [sponsoring legislation](#) to keep immigrant families together.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce legislation to [remove](#) all names, symbols, displays, monuments and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America and anyone who voluntarily served it from all military bases and other assets of the U.S. Department of Defense.
- President Biden [signed](#) into law the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, legislation that Duckworth helped introduce to address the rise in hate crimes and violence against the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community.
- Senator Duckworth’s [Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act](#) passed the House and Senate and is expected to be signed into law. When families keep in touch with their incarcerated family members, studies have shown recidivism rates are reduced, but pricing of phone calls and videoconferencing to prisons is often predatory and prohibitively expensive for these relatives. Because no family member should ever have to choose between staying in touch with an incarcerated loved one and paying their bills, Duckworth introduced this bipartisan [legislation](#) to strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system, and the bill passed through the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation (CST) Committee. Duckworth [received support from the Federal Communications Commission](#) for clarifying the agency’s legal authority to end this predatory practice, and she [hosted a roundtable](#) in Chicago with criminal justice reform advocates to discuss this legislation as well.
- Senator Duckworth led multiple efforts to help ensure our national monuments tell the full story of our nation’s history, including her [Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act](#)—which passed the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee—to designate the 1908 Race Riot Sites in Springfield as a national monument. She is also [pushing for the site of Emmett Till’s memorial service to be designated as part of the National Park System](#).
- Senator Duckworth has been advocating on behalf of the Cairo and Thebes families left behind by decades of neglect by all levels of government, and she was awarded the City of Cairo’s Service Award for her ongoing efforts. She visited Cairo to meet with residents of the [Elmwood and McBride housing developments](#) after this neglect led to their homes being condemned and slated for destruction with no workable relocation plan in place, and she announced nearly \$1.2 million in federal support for public housing in Alexander County. She elevated the community’s immediate concerns and long-term needs with multiple federal officials in both the Trump and Biden Administrations, pressed the Federal Government to [create a Cairo-focused task force](#) and introduced the [Averting Crises in Housing Assistance \(ACHA\) Act](#) to address the national backlog of needed repairs in public housing facilities by investing \$70 billion in the Public Housing Capital Fund to improve public housing outcomes for residents. She also called for those who created the crisis to face justice and is working to grow the local economy so that the Cairo community can remain strong for generations.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [COVID-19 Bias and Anti-Racism Training Act](#) to create a \$200 million grant program aimed at supporting anti-bias and anti-racism training for individuals involved in COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccine distribution and response.



- Senator Duckworth introduced a bill that would create a National Park Service National Heritage Area in the greater Bronzeville community of Chicago. The [Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act](#) would help tell the story of the Great Migration and how it created a city within a city known as the Black Metropolis.
- Because people of color still face discrimination in the housing market and are more likely to be steered toward predatory products and more expensive loans, Senator Duckworth worked to re-introduce the [Home Loan Quality Transparency Act](#) to hold discriminatory lenders accountable by ensuring loan quality criteria is made publicly available by any lender issuing a significant number of mortgages and home equity lines of credit each year.
- To establish a clear legal prohibition against policies that seek to imprison American citizens on the basis of race, religion, nationality, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability, Senator Duckworth reintroduced the [Korematsu-Takai Civil Liberties Protection Act of 2021](#).
- After the Trump Administration and its political appointees began blocking U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)'s Center for Minority Veterans employees from including LGBT Veterans in their advocacy and outreach, Senator Duckworth introduced the [LGBT VA Advocacy Inclusion Act](#) to amend the VA's definition of "minority group member" to explicitly include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Veterans and prevent the Trump Administration's efforts to discriminate against them.

## ADVOCATING FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included a [modified version](#) of Duckworth's *All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP Act)*, which will [help](#) make public transit stations across the country accessible to all Americans, accelerate the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) implementation of its [ASAP Strategic Plan](#) and provide Illinoisans living with disabilities greater independence and access to employment.
- After the then-Republican House of Representatives passed a bill that would have gutted the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) by rewarding businesses that failed to make their facilities accessible to people with disabilities, Duckworth built a coalition of Senators to successfully [block the bill](#) from becoming law. After blocking the damaging legislation, she introduced the [Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act](#) to incentivize these small businesses to become accessible and help those businesses comply with the ADA.
- As a result of a Duckworth-authored [law](#) she wrote to ensure American travelers with disabilities are able to make informed decisions about which airlines to fly on and which to avoid, the U.S. Department of Transportation for the first time released data [revealing just how many wheelchairs and motorized scooters passenger airlines damage each month](#). Wheelchair and scooter users often on these devices to get through their daily lives, and when they are damaged by airlines, it can mean a complete loss of mobility and independence. Duckworth's own wheelchair has been damaged several times during air travel. The Senator also introduced the [Air Carrier Access Amendments Act](#) to reduce the unnecessary challenges many Americans with disabilities face during air travel.
- Duckworth introduced [bicameral legislation](#) to help break down the significant barriers that Americans with disabilities continue to face when accessing website and software applications, which all Americans rely on for employment, commerce, education, public services and all other



aspects of society. Tony Coelho, former Congressman and author of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, described this legislation as “as significant as the introduction of the ADA.”

- As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Duckworth helped establish a permanent [disability advocate](#) seat on the Amtrak Board of Directors.
- Duckworth introduced the [Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act](#) to help ensure all newly-constructed single-family homes built with federal funding include at least one accessible “zero step” entrance, doorways wide enough for a wheelchair, accessible bathroom and light switches as well as thermostats at reachable heights from a wheelchair.
- At Duckworth’s [request](#), the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is [conducting](#) a comprehensive, wide-ranging study into the persisting barriers that Americans with disabilities—of all backgrounds—experience in accessing healthcare, including medical treatment, services, equipment and more.
- Duckworth led a group of 10 Senators in [securing](#) commitment from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide better guidance and regulations to help state and local governments better comply with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*’s (ADA) accessibility requirements on their websites, mobile applications and other forms of technology.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Exercise and Fitness for All Act](#) to establish new federal guidelines to help people with disabilities have the same opportunity to use fitness facilities as their able-bodied peers.

## SUPPORTING POLICE AND FIRST RESPONDERS

- Senator Duckworth voted to send critical funding and resources to communities across Illinois during the pandemic to help prevent police officers, firefighters and other first responders from being laid off due to local budget shortfalls.
- As part of her work to support police officers, firefighters and emergency responders, Duckworth worked to get her bipartisan *Public Safety Officer Support Act*, which would support the families of officers who struggle with their mental health or who are lost to trauma-linked suicides, [signed into law](#).
- In response to an increase in auto-related first responder deaths in 2019, Senator Duckworth [introduced legislation](#) to establish a national safety priority within an existing federal grant program to increase public awareness of “Move Over” laws and encourage implementation of life-saving vehicle technology.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [First Responders Survivors Support Act](#) to increase Public Safety Officers’ death and disability benefit (PSOB) to \$500,000, fix bureaucratic problems with the benefits system, increase the education benefit to \$2,000 per month and identify ways to strengthen, streamline and increase access to the PSOB education benefit.

## DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY

- To help preserve and honor the legacy of John Lewis—one of America’s greatest civil rights heroes—Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#) with Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) to restore the full protections of the landmark *Voting Rights Act* and end the scourge of minority voter suppression.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [For the People Act](#) to restore the promise of American democracy by making it easier, rather than harder, for the American people to have their voices





heard by casting a vote and help end the dominance of big money in politics while ensuring that public officials work in the public's interest, not for special interests.

- Senator Duckworth co-sponsored the [\*DISCLOSE Act\*](#) to create a more transparent federal campaign finance system by ensuring that businesses and organizations spending money in elections disclose their individual donors to the public.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [\*Protecting American Votes and Elections \(PAVE\) Act\*](#) to protect American elections from foreign interference by mandating hand-marked paper ballots and setting new cybersecurity standards for all federal elections.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce the [\*Supreme Court Ethics Act\*](#) to require the U.S. Supreme court to adopt a code of ethics for Supreme Court justices, who today are exempt from the Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges that all other federal judges are required to follow.
- Senator Duckworth helped introduce the bipartisan [\*Military Voter Protection \(MVP\) Act\*](#) to ensure that servicemembers are provided with the ballots and registration cards they need to vote while deployed overseas, as well as receive instruction from trained personnel on how to cast a vote in whichever state they are registered in. She also introduced the bipartisan [\*Reducing Barriers for Military Voters Act\*](#) to establish a secure electronic voting system for active duty servicemembers stationed in hazardous duty zones or rotational deployments.
- Senator Duckworth re-introduced the [\*Pre-Registration of Voters Everywhere \(PROVE\) Act\*](#), which would allow citizens who are 16 and 17 years old to pre-register so they can be added to voter rolls automatically when they reach voting age.
- When Trump-appointed United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General Louis DeJoy began tampering with mail delivery, causing delays of everything from paychecks to lifesaving prescription medication for millions of Americans, Senator Duckworth took a number of actions to help ensure mail is delivered on time, including [discussing the impact](#) of these changes with Illinois postal workers. She called on DeJoy to [fix the delays](#) and avoid cost increases for [election mail](#). Duckworth also [demanded immediate action](#) to stop the delay of prescription drug delivery for Veterans and [criticized](#) the operational changes that disproportionately harmed deployed servicemembers.
- After secret U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) opinions were used to justify torture in the past, Senator Duckworth introduced the [\*DOJ OLC Transparency Act\*](#) to improve oversight over the Executive Branch and increase government transparency by requiring public disclosure of all past legal opinions, as well as any it produces moving forward.



## BRINGING JOBS, BUSINESS AND FUNDING TO ILLINOIS

- Duckworth secured [multiple provisions](#) in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that are helping our state rebuild roads and bridges, improve public transportation systems, expand broadband and grow our electric vehicle charging networks. With Chicago drivers each [losing 104 hours](#) sitting in traffic last year alone, her provision to [decrease traffic congestion](#) in major metropolitan areas will save Illinoisans both time and money spent on gas and auto maintenance while reducing air pollution.
- As part of her continuing efforts to help strengthen economic ties with our partners in the Indo-Pacific region, Duckworth [led a Congressional delegation to Taiwan and South Korea](#) specifically highlighting how Illinois is uniquely positioned for greater investment and increased exports with international partners as a hub of agriculture, manufacturing and technology. This helped lead to a joint venture between Illinois's ADM and South Korea's LG Chem, as well as a [commitment from Taiwan](#) to purchase an estimated \$2.6 billion of our state's corn and soybeans. She also hosted numerous positive conversations about how we can work together to bolster trade and support good-paying, local jobs in the agriculture and tech sectors while better protecting our nation from supply chain disruptions.
- The Senator strongly supported the [CHIPS and Science Act](#) that is supporting local manufacturing, growing our economy and strengthening our nation's science and manufacturing competitiveness with China.
- Senator Duckworth helped announce more than \$11.6 billion in federal grants awarded to Illinois organizations and governments, including more than \$7.7 billion in funding to help Illinoisans address and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. She helped secure a number of major awards for Illinois projects, including \$20 million in BUILD Infrastructure funding to the [City of Joliet](#), more than \$20 million for America's Central Port District in the [Metro East](#), \$13 million to the Town of Normal and more than \$13 million to the City of Carbondale.
- Together with Senator Dick Durbin, Duckworth also [secured \\$211 million in Congressionally-directed spending for Illinois projects](#) in 2022 and another [\\$182 million](#) in 2023 that will help clean up our water, improve our state's infrastructure, expand healthcare access, create jobs and tackle environmental injustice issues facing communities across Illinois.
- [The first Senate bill Duckworth introduced became law just four months into her term as Senator](#), marking the fastest time any current Senator had passed a bill after being sworn in. Her bipartisan law supports Illinois jobs and prevents infrastructure projects from becoming ensnared in needless bureaucratic delays by rolling back a misguided U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rule that enabled governors of neighboring states to delay or block infrastructure improvements in Illinois. Repealing this rule was the top priority in the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's [2017 Federal Agenda](#). A DOT analysis estimated the law will save taxpayers \$86.3 million annually.
- Through her leadership on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Illinois communities of all sizes are [benefiting from transit support](#) that is helping enable transit agencies across the state to create good-paying local jobs, modernize and expand services by purchasing new buses and railcars, address repair backlogs and transition to new technologies that better address the climate crisis.
- Duckworth's bipartisan [provision](#) to provide access to cheaper capital for major U.S. airport projects and stretch taxpayer dollars further to create more jobs and economic benefits was included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



- To better support small businesses owned by Veterans, people of color and women, Senator Duckworth [urged Administration officials](#) to take steps to ensure that the most vulnerable small businesses had access to the grants provided by the \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program authorized by the *CARES Act*. She also [authored legislation](#) to prevent the U.S. Small Business Administration's 7(a) flagship loan program from shutting down and leaving many small business owners without access to critical working capital funds.
- U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) [announced](#) \$912.1 million in federal funding awarded to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to help the agency survive and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Duckworth helped secure a [\\$132 million federal investment](#) in the CREATE Program's 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project in Chicago, which aims to eliminate freight congestion and reduce wait times at one of the worst bottlenecks in the city.
- After working for years as a Congresswoman to secure necessary funding and leading a Congressional coalition in support of a \$14 million federal TIGER grant to replace the current 136-year-old Fox River Bridge in Elgin, Senator Duckworth [helped break ground](#) on the new bridge which will help eliminate the bottleneck between freight rail and Metra's Milwaukee District - West Line.
- Advocating on behalf of Chicagoland's medical research industry, Duckworth and Senator Durbin [led](#) members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation in requesting that a new medical research agency, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), be headquartered in the Chicago area.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Microloan Program Expansion Act of 2019](#) to help small business owners secure the financing they need to grow their businesses and create good-paying jobs in their communities.
- Senator Duckworth's [Route 66 Centennial Commission Act](#) was signed into law, establishing a centennial commission in preparation for the 100th anniversary of Route 66, which begins in Chicago and continues through six other states before ending on the Pacific Coast of California.



## SUPPORTING OUR STATE THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

- Senator Duckworth helped [pass](#) the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which put money back in the pockets of working families, provided critical resources to allow hard-hit small businesses to survive, helped schools safely reopen, boosted funding for local municipalities to hire more first responders, extended Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and helped cut child poverty nearly in half. As part of the ARP, Duckworth [authored provisions](#) to send desperately needed emergency resources for State Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs to help older Americans and people with disabilities continue to receive critical healthcare and support services in their homes during a deadly pandemic that was particularly fatal for older Americans and the disability community living in congregate care settings.
- Senator Duckworth led efforts on a wide range of issues to better support middle-class working Americans in the early stages of the pandemic and protect our citizens, including pushing for passage of [the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and [the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#). The landmark CARES Act put cash directly into the pockets of working Americans, greatly expanded emergency unemployment insurance and provided immediate relief for small businesses that were on the verge of collapse. Duckworth also helped secure more than \$4.6 billion in COVID-19 relief grants in the state of Illinois and [supported](#) the nearly \$500 billion package to provide further funding for small businesses, hospitals and healthcare workers.
- With our nation continuing to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Duckworth introduced the [Targeting Resources for Equitable Access to Treatment for Long COVID \(TREAT Long COVID\) Act](#) to increase access to medical care and treatment for communities and individuals struggling with the long-term effects of COVID after recovery. Supported by her colleagues, she also introduced the bipartisan [Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act](#) to expand and support research surrounding the neurological impacts of COVID-19.
- Senator Duckworth strongly supported efforts to help restaurants survive the pandemic, cosponsoring the Continuing Emergency Support for Restaurants Act as well as the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act. Duckworth was also a [co-sponsor](#) of the RESTAURANTS Act, provisions of which were [included](#) in the American Rescue Plan.
- Senator Duckworth was one of the first Senators to [urge](#) the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to immediately establish clear diagnostic testing procedures, capabilities and production capacity to better mitigate the spread of COVID-19. After [calling on then-President Trump to swiftly take action under the Defense Production Act to boost production of lifesaving ventilators](#) and other equipment needed to control the pandemic, Duckworth helped [introduce new legislation](#) requiring him to do so [and introduced](#) the *COVID-19 Health Care Worker Protection Act* to help keep frontline healthcare workers safe. Duckworth also cosponsored the *Free COVID-19 Testing Act* to expand access to free tests, [helped introduce](#) the comprehensive *COVID-19 RELIEF for Small Businesses Act of 2020* to support small businesses by providing needed resources and helped introduce legislation that [was signed into law](#) to prevent student Veterans and their loved ones receiving benefits through the GI Bill from losing those benefits as universities moved online. Duckworth also [joined her colleagues](#) on the *PAID (Providing Americans Insured Days) Leave Act* to ensure workers can take time off when ill and [helped introduce](#) the *Small Business Debt Relief Act of 2020*, which was [included](#) in the *CARES Act*, to support small businesses affected by the pandemic by relieving certain federal loan payments.



- To stop the Trump Administration’s harmful effort to eliminate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at Senior Living Facilities (SLF) in Illinois—which provides healthy meals to over 8,000 Illinoisans every day—Senator Duckworth and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced [legislation](#) to allow SLFs to continue providing these nutritious meals to its residents as required by state law and allow residents at these facilities to continue receiving SNAP benefits.

## SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

- Senator Duckworth championed the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), which provides \$500 million to expand the number of service stations that offer low-carbon ethanol and biodiesel, made from Illinois corn and soybeans.
- Senator Duckworth is a strong supporter of reforming the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) small refinery exemption (SRE) program so that it actually helps the farmers it was intended to help instead of giving more handouts to large oil companies. After the Trump Administration’s EPA undermined the original intent of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) by issuing dozens of SRE waivers to large and profitable oil companies like Exxon and Chevron, Duckworth helped introduced the bipartisan [RFS Integrity Act of 2019](#) to reform the program and make applications for SREs public.
- [Following](#) Duckworth’s advocacy, the Biden Administration announced that it will publish the ethanol blending mandates for 2020, 2021 and 2022 at levels that more closely resemble American consumption levels and help farmers and biofuel producers prepare for the future.
- Senator Duckworth successfully called on President Biden to permit year-round sale of E15 fuel in order to reduce the United States’ reliance on foreign sources of energy and lower costs.
- A modified version of Duckworth’s [Reduce Our Military’s Reliance on Foreign Fuel Act](#) was included in the Committee-passed version of FY22 NDAA that would create a DoD pilot program on the use of sustainable aviation fuels.
- Senator Duckworth supported [the Farm Bill that overwhelmingly passed the Senate](#) and included several Illinois priorities as well as provisions to ensure farmers receive the assistance they need, support Veteran farmers and urban agriculture efforts, improve drinking water, expand access to high-speed internet in rural communities and create historic investments in land and water conservation through climate-smart agricultural practices.



## SUPPORTING THE TROOPS AND VETERANS

- Senator Duckworth led the successful effort to [help U.S. combat Veteran Miguel Perez, Jr.](#), return to the United States after our nation failed him multiple times and the Trump Administration cruelly deported him. Duckworth was also able to [meet Perez](#) when he was allowed back into the United States before finally being [granted U.S. citizenship](#). On Veterans Day in 2019, Duckworth [joined](#) Perez in Tijuana, Mexico, to meet with other deported Veterans, honor their service and offer supportive services to them as they sought to access the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare benefits they'd earned. Duckworth also [advocated](#) for Marine Veteran Roman Sabal, who was denied entry into the country to attend his own citizenship hearing, but was [finally granted citizenship](#) in October 2020. As part of her efforts, she also introduced her [Veterans Visa and Protection Act, the Healthcare Opportunities for Patriots in Exile \(HOPE\) Act and the Immigrant Veterans Eligibility Tracking System \(I-VETS\) Act](#) to prohibit the deportation of Veterans who are not violent offenders, give legal permanent residents a path to citizenship through military service and strengthen U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare services for Veterans.
- Senator Duckworth secured a [minimum inventory for the Air Force's C-130 fleet](#) to ensure that the Air Force has sufficient C-130 capacity to carry out critical missions domestically as well as overseas while also safeguarding the mission of Peoria's 182nd Airlift Wing and protecting the jobs of its roughly 1,250 Airmen and approximately 370 full-time employees.
- Senator Duckworth [helped secure nearly](#) \$200 million for the U.S. Army Rock Island Arsenal that employs more than 6,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel.
- Senator Duckworth authored the [bipartisan legislation](#) that created a non-partisan, independent commission to examine every aspect of the Afghanistan war and develop real reforms that ensure our nation not only learns the right lessons from our 20 years in Afghanistan, but never makes the same mistakes again.
- After bravely serving our nation, too many Veterans come home and discover years later that their service left them with respiratory and neurological issues tied to exposure to burn pits or other toxic materials, which is why Senator Duckworth proudly [supported](#) the *PACT Act* that became law and overhauled the VA's processes for toxic-exposed Veterans to include creating presumptions for several illnesses associated with burn pits and Agent Orange exposures. The law is finally delivering long-overdue VA healthcare and benefits across all generations of Veterans, helping ensure Veterans are able to get the care they need for service-connected illnesses.
- Senator Duckworth's bipartisan [Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act](#) was signed into law to let Veteran small business owners acquire equipment and property that the federal government no longer has a use for, helping them grow and lowering their costs.
- As an Iraq War combat Veteran, Senator Duckworth has strongly advocated for the [need to provide our troops](#) with clear guidance and legal authority for their operations with a new Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), speaking out frequently and [penning a column in the Wall Street Journal](#) urging Congress to [update the outdated 2001 and 2002 AUMFs](#), which set the legal framework, parameters and constitutional basis for our ongoing military engagements in the Middle East.
- Returning to Iraq for the first time since she was shot down in 2004, Senator Duckworth [led a bipartisan delegation on an official trip to the Middle East](#). She traveled to Baghdad, Taji and Erbil, where the delegation met with Iraq's top leaders and received operational and intelligence updates from American diplomats and military commanders in the region. Duckworth [reflected on her visit in an op-ed](#) published in the Chicago Tribune.



- Senator Duckworth [secured a provision](#) in the 2022 *National Defense Authorization Act* to make sure each service is paying its Guard and Reserve members the same monthly incentive pay for maintaining critical skills and taking on hazardous duty as it does for those in the active component.
- Senator Duckworth’s [bipartisan bill](#) to provide Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Pre✓® to Veterans with disabilities passed the Senate by unanimous consent.
- As part of her efforts to support our troops, Senator Duckworth introduced the [Depend on Domestic Clean Energy Act](#) to help protect troops abroad by transitioning the Department of Defense away from fossil fuels—the transportation of which in combat zones contributes to a significant number of U.S. casualties—and toward clean energy. A provision based on this legislation was included in the 2023 *National Defense Authorization Act*. Duckworth also introduced the bipartisan [Armed Forces Fuel Choice Act](#), which would ensure E15 fuel is offered at all commercial gas stations located on military bases in the United States to reduce our reliance on foreign oil.
- Since its creation, the “Boots to Business” program has helped thousands of transitioning servicemembers, Veterans and military spouses learn and develop critical business development and entrepreneurial skills. Senator Duckworth’s bipartisan [Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act](#), which would enshrine the program in law, passed the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- Senator Duckworth’s bill to [establish](#) a new memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor the contributions of the estimated 18 million women who helped keep our nation’s economy and society running during World War II.
- Every day, National Guardsmen and women work to protect and defend the Constitution as well as respond to communities in times of crisis—the least we can do is make sure they receive the promotions they’ve earned in a timely manner that ensures their pay and benefits match the job they’re actually doing. To help ensure this happens, Senator Duckworth introduced the bipartisan, bicameral [National Guard Promotion Improvement Act](#) to improve and streamline the promotion process for them to ensure they can progress in their careers without needless bureaucratic delays. A provision based on this legislation was included in the 2023 *National Defense Authorization Act*.
- Senator Duckworth introduced her [Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act](#) to make healthcare more affordable for Veterans, preventing them from being forced to pay out-of-pocket costs for essential preventive health medications and prescription drugs that most other Americans receive for free.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Energy Jobs for our Heroes Act](#) to help Veterans gain the training and credentials necessary to secure job opportunities in the clean energy sector. Her bipartisan legislation would help ease the transition back to civilian life for servicemembers and strengthen the economy by connecting employers in the fast-growing solar, wind, nuclear and cyber energy industries with talented, highly skilled Veterans who possess the needed training and credentials to succeed. Duckworth’s legislation [passed](#) the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously.
- Senator Duckworth’s bipartisan [WWII Army Ranger Congressional Gold Medal Act](#) passed the Senate unanimously.
- After research showed that poorly-fitting personal protective equipment (PPE) is a leading cause of injury for all servicemembers, Senator Duckworth helped [introduce bipartisan legislation](#) to address issues of inadequate and ill-fitting body armor and PPE in the military.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Equality in Leadership and Inclusion in Top Elements \(ELITE\) Act](#) to evaluate the barriers facing minorities looking to serve in elite units of Armed Forces. This legislation was eventually included in the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act.



- Senator Duckworth introduced the bipartisan [Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Act](#) to make sure the spouses of deceased Veterans who owned small businesses don't lose their late spouse's contract preference, which could result in the spouse losing the ability to continue running those small businesses.

## ENDING MILITARY HUNGER AND HELPING MILITARY FAMILIES

- Senator Duckworth's leadership led to the most significant enhancement of paid parental leave for members of the U.S. Armed Forces in our nation's history. She wrote the law increasing [paid parental leave for servicemembers](#) by allowing them to take up to a total of 12 weeks after the birth of a child, the adoption of a child or placement of a minor child for foster care.
- With far too many military families going hungry because unintended barriers make them unable to access essential nutrition assistance programs that they should be eligible for and as someone whose family relied on these nutrition programs, Senator Duckworth proudly [introduced](#) a bipartisan bill to help make sure our servicemembers and their families have enough to eat. Duckworth's *Military Family Nutrition Access Act* would exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)—a subset of military compensation intended to cover the costs of off-base housing—from income calculations used to determine Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility, making more military families eligible for this critical lifeline. She also introduced the bipartisan [Military Hunger Prevention Act](#) to help keep troops and military families from going hungry because no one willing to serve this nation in uniform should struggle to feed their families. A Duckworth-authored [provision](#) to review the previous Basic Needs Allowance, expanding the pool of military members who qualify for the support, was included in the *2023 National Defense Authorization Act*.
- As part of her effort to improve child care options for servicemembers, a Duckworth-authored provision was [signed into law](#) to help expand a pilot program that provides financial assistance to servicemembers for in-home child care.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Get the Lead out of Military Housing Act](#) to protect military families from the threat of lead poisoning in their homes and schools and [questioned military leaders during a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee hearing](#) on their inadequate response to unsafe military housing conditions.
- Senator Duckworth [introduced legislation](#) to help servicemembers navigate the childcare accessibility crisis by expanding J-1 visa exemptions to au pairs providing childcare services to military families.
- Ahead of Veterans Day 2019, Senator Duckworth [introduced a suite of bills](#) to improve U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs services by addressing Veteran suicide, homelessness and access to healthcare.
- Senator Duckworth introduced the [Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act](#) to help more than 65,000 military widows across the country access the full survivor benefits earned by their fallen loved ones. Currently, these widows are prevented from receiving full benefits from both the Department of Defense's Survivors Benefits Plan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, even if their spouses had paid into both programs.
- In an effort to honor the service of our military and the dedication of our civil servants, Senator Duckworth' authored the bipartisan [Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act](#), which would grant automatic citizenship to children of military families born while stationed abroad. Her proposal was [signed into law](#).





## SUPPORTING OUR ALLIES

- In [response](#) to Russia's war of aggression against the people of Ukraine, Senator Duckworth pushed to ensure our allies had the support they needed to beat back Russian troops and to help the Ukrainian people, including [calling for](#) accelerated sales of U.S. M1A2 SEPv3 tanks to Poland, [supporting](#) significant aid packages, [requesting](#) and [securing](#) Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukrainians in the United States, [meeting](#) with members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) Illinois Division, speaking out on the Senate floor [in support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community in Illinois](#), helping quickly [reunite with her family in Chicago a woman who had been inappropriately detained by U.S. authorities for months after fleeing Ukraine](#) and hosting [a discussion](#) that brought together members of Chicago's Ukrainian community with officials from the U.S. National Security Council to help provide residents with updates from the Biden Administration on its efforts in Ukraine.
- To hold Putin and his enablers accountable in the wake of his unprovoked war against Ukraine, Senator Duckworth also helped introduce the [Digital Asset Sanctions Compliance Enhancement Act](#) to help ensure Russian elites can't use digital assets to undermine the international community's economic sanctions against Russia.
- With our nation's withdrawal from Afghanistan, Senator Duckworth led [efforts](#) to help keep our word to Afghan allies who supported our mission there—often at [great danger, cost and sacrifice to themselves and their loved ones](#). Duckworth also [wrote the law](#) that created an independent, nonpartisan commission to examine every aspect of the war and produce actionable recommendations for reforms that ensure our nation not only learns the right lessons from our 20 years in Afghanistan, but ensure the same mistakes are never made again.

## HELPING END MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

- Senator Duckworth helped offer the [Military Justice Improvement Act](#) as an amendment to the *National Defense Authorization Act* to prevent military sexual trauma by professionalizing how the military prosecutes serious crimes like sexual assault by moving the decision on whether to prosecute them to independent, trained and professional military prosecutors.
- Senator Duckworth also [pushed](#) the U.S. Army to review reported mishandling of multiple sexual assault claims by leaders of the Illinois-based Army Reserve unit, the 416th Theater Engineer Command. The commander was eventually suspended and removed.
- On the heels of the murder of Private First Class Vanessa Guillen, whose family alleges that she never reported incidents of sexual harassment because she had no confidence in the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program at Fort Hood, Senator Duckworth [called for an immediate review](#) of the Army's implementation of its SHARP program and an [investigation](#) in Army regulations, policies and procedures governing the initial response. The Government Accountability Office [accepted](#) Duckworth's request for an independent review.
- Senator Duckworth [introduced a bipartisan bill](#) aimed at preventing sexual assault and retaliation in the Coast Guard.

