



U.S. Congresswoman
TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Proudly Serving Illinois' 8th District

Congresswoman Duckworth's First Term Accomplishments: 2013-2014

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (IL-08) released a report on her first term as representative of the 8th Congressional District. Throughout the past two years, Congresswoman Duckworth focused on being accessible to her neighbors, cutting waste and fraud in government and investing in programs that help working families achieve the American Dream. Congresswoman Duckworth remained dedicated to advocating for her constituents and ensuring that they have a strong voice in Congress.

The following is a glimpse of Rep. Duckworth's advocacy for her constituents. To learn more visit Duckworth.house.gov.

Personal Accountability:

Duckworth made accountability and setting an example a priority during her first term.

- Returned \$113,918.54 in congressional office funds to the United States Treasury in 2013.
- In February 2013, took a voluntary 8.4% pay reduction, the same percentage that most discretionary programs were cut as a result of the sequester. In total, she gave back more than \$10,000 of her own pay to the U.S. Treasury to help reduce the debt. She was the first Member of Congress to do so.
- Cosponsored the No Budget No Pay Act, which would prevent Members of Congress from being paid if they fail to pass a budget.
- In May 2014, introduced legislation that would prevent lawmakers from booking first-class airline seats using their congressional allowances.
- Introduced the "Stop the Frank Act," with Rep. Robert Woodall (R-GA). This bipartisan legislation would eliminate the Franking privilege for Members of Congress. Specifically, the bill repeals an antiquated federal law that exempts Congress from the United States Postal Service's (USPS) prepayment requirement.

First Term Legislative Successes:

Advocating for the 8th District in Washington

- During and after the flooding in April 2013, helped residents in DuPage, Cook and Kane counties receive federal assistance.
- Helped secure millions of dollars in grants for the 8th Congressional District including numerous grants for local Fire Departments and Healthcare Providers. Secured a FEMA grant of \$3.8 million for a Stormwater Management Project in the Village of Bartlett.
- Helped acquire funding for the Elgin – O’Hare Western Access Project which is expected to create 65,000 direct and indirect jobs by 2040 and save drivers \$145 million annually in time and fuel costs, according to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.
- Played a crucial role in securing a \$70 million grant to UI Labs of Chicago for a Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute.
- Opposed historic cuts to SNAP program and offered an amendment to the Farm Bill in 2013 that was unanimously accepted by the House. It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on the effects of SNAP cuts on charitable food providers, like the Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry in Schaumburg, IL and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.
- Helped introduce H.R. 1595, the “Student Loan Relief Act of 2013”, a bill that was part of the effort that kept student loan rates from doubling in July 2013, and was outspoken in voting against legislation that would cut federal funding for public education throughout the 8th district.
- Cosponsored the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, which passed into law and helps to address drastic flood insurance rate increases for 8th district residents.

Cutting Waste and Fraud in Government

- Co-introduced the SERV Act, which clarifies the definition of active duty military service to exclude enrollment at a military prep school. The SERV Act will ensure special treatment for government contracting opportunities and other benefits designed to support our Veterans go to those who actually served.
- Offered cost-savings provisions to the National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Budget:
 - Returned our military to one camouflage pattern for each theater – projected to save over \$80 million a year for the Army alone.
 - Increased oversight for military equipment purchases for programs including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) project and the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS).

- Introduced a proposal that would direct the Department of Defense to determine one standardized accounting system for all of the services' ammunition.
- Strengthened oversight over ethics requirements for Senior Defense Officials such as General Officers seeking employment with Defense Contractors.
- Provided oversight of DoD Spare Parts Management after reports that the Department is spending hundreds of millions of dollars above what is considered fair and reasonable prices for weapon system spare parts.
- Required a review of how DoD disposes of Excess Defense Articles to ensure that the taxpayer is getting the greatest financial benefit.
- Passed an amendment to the FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act through the Oversight and Government Reform committee and the House unanimously. This amendment will make government more transparent by holding federal agencies accountable for unreasonable delays in responding to requests for information from the public. A similar Senate-passed version of this bill also included the amendment's language.
- Cosponsored the PRIME ACT, which enacts stronger penalties for Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The legislation will help prevent improper or mistaken payments from either program and improve the sharing of fraud data across state and federal agencies and programs.

Helping Small Businesses, Manufacturers and Promoting Job Creation

- Introduced the bipartisan Small Business Paperwork Relief Act, which would waive fines for most first-time federal paperwork infractions for small businesses.
- Advocated for Small Business in the NDAA by introducing amendments to expand their opportunities in government contracting.
- Introduced the Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act, which allows Veteran-owned small businesses to apply for and receive unwanted government surplus or excess property.
- Introduced legislation to create a Congressional robotics competition to spur the interest in young Americans to get involved in STEM careers and toured manufacturing facilities with local students.
- Cosponsored the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act, which passed the House. This legislation would create a network of regional institutes across the country, each focused on a unique technology, material, or process relevant to advanced manufacturing.
- Cosponsored the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Act, which would allow manufacturing firms to establish a manufacturing reinvestment account (MRA), similar

to an individual retirement account (IRA) in a community bank and to make annual pre-tax contributions of up to \$500,000 that may be held in the MRA for up to 7 years for purposes of reinvesting in the business or employees.

Advocating for Veterans and Members of the Military

- Introduced the bipartisan Troop Talent Act. This legislation will help transfer military skill sets into civilian credentials or licenses. It will allow Military Tuition Assistance to be used on courses and programs that guarantee a credential or industry certification after successful completion. Large portions of the Troop Talent Act were passed into law in the Defense Budget.
- Introduced a Motion to Recommit to the Defense Budget to include more protections for victims of sexual assault in the military by providing them with an alternative option to seek justice outside the chain of command within their branch of the military.
- Introduced and advocated for the The Military Opportunities for Mothers (MOM) Act. The legislation extends maternity leave for women serving in the military from 6 weeks to 12 weeks.
- Co-authored The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act, which passed the House of Representatives unanimously. This legislation, named after 28-year-old Marine Veteran Clay Hunt who tragically took his own life, will reduce the barriers that prevent our Veterans from receiving quality mental health care.
- Introduced the bipartisan Memory Act, which is aimed at helping active duty service members better track potential exposures during deployment that could be later connected to mental health injuries and mild TBIs.
- Expanded the women's health initiative to all service branches. The initiative addresses concerns of women in the military, including: women's health education, barriers to seeking care, uniform/personal protective gear fit, psycho-social effects of deployment, effects of deployment on children and families and sexual harassment/assault response and prevention.
- Last year, Duckworth sent a letter to the Department of Defense asking for new policies to provide greater protections to all forms of credit targeting members of the military and to abusive open-end credit products. In September 2014, the Department of Defense proposed a rule to extend Military Lending Act protections to include these provisions.
- Introduced the Servicemembers Insurance Relief Act, legislation which would allow members of the military and their families to keep their current auto insurance policy when they move from state to state.
- Founded the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Caucus with Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) who is an Army Reserve physician. The caucus advocates for legislation that supports Veterans and members of the military.

A Voice for Persons with Disabilities

- Testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and has been a leading advocate for the treaty.
- Cosponsored and advocated for the ABLE ACT, which passed into law. The legislation will ease financial strains on individuals with disabilities by making tax-deferred savings accounts available to cover expenses such as education, housing and transportation.
- Leading advocate in protecting access for orthotics and prosthetics and other critical medical devices. Led letter signed by 137 Members of Congress which requested an HHS Inspector General (IG) study into the effect of flawed Medicare Competitive Bidding Program on beneficiary health. The IG has initiated the study.
- Successfully advocated for expansion of DOD pilot program to increase gas station accessibility for persons with disabilities at military bases throughout the country.

Outreach and Accessibility to Constituents:

Congress at Your Corner

Congresswoman Duckworth held more than twenty Congress at Your Corner Events (CAYC) throughout the 8th Congressional District. These events are held in venues such as grocery stores and libraries and are an opportunity for residents to share their questions, comments and concerns with the Congresswoman and her office. CAYCs took place in towns including Bensenville, Mount Prospect, Carpentersville, Lombard, Glendale Heights, Bloomingdale, Elgin, Villa Park, Elmhurst, Streamwood and Palatine.

Roundtables

Congresswoman Duckworth held a variety of roundtables with mayors, state and local officials, advocacy groups and interested constituents. Roundtable discussions included topics like Manufacturing, Education and Sequestration, Transportation, Veterans, Paycheck Fairness, Drug Addiction, Student Loans, Medicare and Immigration.

Casework

Congresswoman Duckworth makes it a top priority to help constituents seeking assistance from a federal agency. In her first term, this included assistance with Social Security and Medicare payments, Veterans benefits and issues related to immigration. The Congresswoman was proactive in her outreach to her constituents – holding regularly scheduled CAYC Events and Satellite Office hours throughout the communities. Congresswoman Duckworth is proud that she helped her neighbors solve hundreds of cases and helped them receive over \$247,325.92 in benefits last year.

Satellite Office Hours

Congresswoman Duckworth's office held satellite office hours throughout the 8th District so that constituents could receive assistance and guidance without having to commute long distances. Satellite office hours were held in towns such as Bloomingdale to Bartlett and in convenient locations in these communities, including colleges, mosques, libraries, senior centers and municipality buildings.

Constituent Mail

To keep her neighbors informed about her work in Washington, the Congresswoman responded to constituent letters in a timely manner. More than 85,000 letters were sent out during her term, with an average response time of one week.

STEM Competition

The inaugural U.S. House STEM App Challenge ran during the Spring of 2014. Duckworth held an information session about the competition and picked a winning team from the district. All winning apps were featured on the House of Representatives' website as well as on display in a U.S. Capitol exhibit. This competition engaged local student's creativity and encouraged their participation in STEM education fields.

Congressional Art Competition

Congresswoman Duckworth hosted Art Competitions for students in the 8th Congressional District. The winning piece from 2014 is currently on display in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol Building.

Job Fair

Nearly 500 job seekers and more than 50 businesses participated in a Hiring Event hosted by Duckworth and U.S. Congressman Brad Schneider (IL-10). The joint Hiring Event at Harper College in Palatine offered jobseekers the chance to meet face-to-face with potential employers from across the area, as well as learn helpful strategies and make valuable connections.

Social Media

Congresswoman Duckworth connected with her neighbors through various types of social media. Since January, the Congresswoman held multiple Twitter and Telephone Town Halls and Google hangouts. In addition, the Congresswoman maintained active and informative Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram accounts.