

From: [Rachel Lord](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#)
Subject: Comment on SB207 - please consider adding food security
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 8:11:24 AM

Dear Senator Kawasaki and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Alaska Food Policy Council supports SB207, and we are thankful for Senator Kawasaki and the co-sponsors of the bill taking up this important matter. One of AFPC's policy priorities is to support efforts that improve food security for our active military and veterans. A 2022 Department of Defense study estimates that nationally, **[24% of active military members are food insecure](#)**. From a 2021 [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) report](#),

“In a recent survey of veterans, 27 percent reported experiencing challenges since their return to civilian life (Morin, 2011). This rate increased to 44 percent for veterans who served after September 11, 2001 (Morin, 2011). However, only 7 percent of veterans (1.3 million) are estimated to have participated in the USDA's largest food and nutrition assistance program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program), between 2016 and 2018 (Keith-Jennings and Cai, 2020).”

Organizations like the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska and the Food Bank of Alaska, in addition to others, provide much needed food access services to active military and veteran families in Alaska. The proposed help desk should ensure that food security is in the list of top priorities for reviewing and improving assistance to our active military and veteran families. As such, **the one amendment we would ask you to consider is on line 7. We strongly encourage adding food security to the areas needing assessment for improving assistance to military members, veterans, and their families.**

Sincerely,
Rachel Lord

Rachel Lord
Advocacy & Policy Director
Alaska Food Policy Council
advocacy@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org
PO Box 173, Homer, AK 99603
cell. 907-435-7209