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July 16, 2019

Thank you all for holding and attending this telephone press conference on of food insecurity among military families. I apologize that I could not participate in today's call, but I wish to extend my profound gratitude to Congresswoman Susan Davis, the staff at MAZON, and everyone else who has fought to end hunger among our Nation's veterans and their families.

Every year, we spend billions to ensure that our Nation's servicemembers are trained and equipped to defend our country and her interests at home and abroad. But all too often we forget about the cost associated with the battles those service members, their spouses, and their families are facing at home, and we should not be adding to their burdens by having them worry if their child is going to bed hungry.

DOD's response to this problem has been, to put it politely, lacking. Their description of this problem as minimal and their suggestion that these members take financial literacy training is not only insulting and condescending, it also does nothing to help the problem. If anything, their response helps to exacerbate this problem by keeping the barriers of shame and stigma to assistance intact.

Our Nation's servicemembers are willing to fight and die for our country, and we should be providing them with the funds and resources necessary to ensure that they can feed their families. That is why I am proud to join Congresswoman Davis to support the Military Hunger Prevention Act.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I hope you all have a great and productive press conference.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Young".

DON YOUNG
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