

Old Order Mennonite Steering Committee

CHAIRMAN - Voice of the Old Order Mennonite - NATIONAL

1233 Strickle Road
Mifflinburg PA 17844
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Sept, 27, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck
Chairman: National Commission on Military and Public Service.

Dear National Commission:

We have been invited to share our concerns with your commission. We are Old Order Mennonites, a non-resistant church of Anabaptist heritage. Over three hundred years ago our forefathers came to Pennsylvania at William Penn's invitation. They came seeking religious freedom, including exemption from military service. We have been granted this privilege, with at times the requirement of alternate service. Humanitarian Aid to our fellow man is a tenet of our faith.

We would like to humbly inform you we oppose the proposed registration of women with Selective Service. If you are going to recommend registration of women, we respectfully ask that you include a recommendation that the women of the non-resistant churches be exempt.

It is our strongly held religious belief that women of registration age (18-26) should be, or preparing to be, a wife, helpmate, and mother. Our women are the heart of the home. We believe strong families build strong churches and communities. Requiring women to register, with the possibility of requiring service, strikes at the heart of our homes, churches, and communities.

We sincerely thank you for giving this matter your consideration, and wish to close with prayers on your behalf.

Respectfully yours,



Elvin Zimmerman
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