

# Military Law Task Force

of The National Lawyers Guild



Statement by the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild

To the public hearing of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service (NCMNPS) at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr. Presidential Library and Museum, Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, Multipurpose Conference Room 4079, Albany Post Rd, Hyde Park, NY12538 on June 20, 2019.

Brigadier General Heck and members of the Commission, Congress, and the public:

We come to you speaking on behalf of our member attorneys, legal workers, barracks lawyers and law students, many of whom are engaged in legal advocacy on behalf of US military servicemembers who have been mistreated and abused by the US armed services. It is from our experiences as well as our collective political analysis, that we come here to express the following statement.

1. We are opposed to the failed policy of draft registration. The information gathered by the Selective Service through the registration program is often inaccurate and its collection serves little purpose other than to encourage a sense of over-obedience to the demands of our nation. We call for the immediate dissolution of the Selective Service System and the destruction of all data submitted by past applicants.
2. We are opposed to an expansion of draft registration to encompass women, because we oppose the draft for all people.
3. We share the concern of many that our current so-called "voluntary" military is in fact not voluntary, that the majority of those who enlist do so due to issues of economic duress. However, we do not support the use of a draft to ameliorate this issue, as history has shown that those with financial resources will find sufficient loopholes to avoid military service, as we know from the example of our President Trump's experience when he was of draft age. We believe that a better way to address the issues of social inequity with regards to military service is for our nation to: (1) immediately withdraw all troops from US military posts in the Middle East region and other "hot spots," (2) radically reduce the size of the US military through allowing servicemembers to seek and receive early discharges from military service, (3) end all coercive and abusive military recruitment policies including allowing 17 year olds to join the military, (4) actually enforce the medical standards for enlistment, and (5) redirecting the funds previously spent on the military to programs that will address our

nation's growing gap between the rich and the poor.

4. We believe that the growing buildup of forces in the Gulf Straits and the saber-rattling towards Iran and Venezuela illustrates the dangers of an over-sized military in bringing our world closer to a catastrophic global war. Conscription will make this danger worse.

5. While we respect the desire of many people (young and old) to serve humanity, we are opposed as a matter of principle to all forms of compulsory servitude. We believe that forced "service" is not voluntary at all, but rather is a form of slavery.

6. We commend those who have resisted draft registration as a matter of conscience and call for the immediate removal of all penalties for those who failed to register. No person should be denied their right to an education, a driver's license, government employment or the chance to become a US citizen because they refused to comply with the demands of the Selective Service.

7. As a matter of principle, our organization expresses its intention to work alongside other human rights organizations in providing legal support for those people who may face penalties for both failing to register for the draft as well as those who refuse to be inducted or perform alternative service in the event of a future draft.

Bree Turner  
321 NE 59<sup>th</sup> St  
Seattle, WA 98105  
April 29, 2019

Commissioners  
The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the review of the Military Selective Service (herein "draft") system. While I support some efforts to encourage a universal national service, I do not support the mandatory registration of females in the military draft.

Due to the fairly recent opening of combat jobs to women, I am particularly concerned with any future requirement that females be required to register for the draft which results in a mandatory placement into combat or near combat locations.

Any development of a future universal national service should offer alternatives to military service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bree Turner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bree Turner

Lars Turner  
321 NE 59<sup>th</sup> St  
Seattle, WA 98105  
April 29, 2019

Commissioners  
The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lars Turner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lars Turner

## SOS America Essential Elements

(Future Mobilization Needs of Nation)

Commission Members and Staff: I am Dean Hess (Colonel, USAF-ret), Senior Advisor to SOS America (Service over Self). [www.sosamerica.org](http://www.sosamerica.org).

As a retired Air Force officer and business consultant, concerned about the need for continuing renewal of our country, I commend the SOS America initiative as a part, hopefully, a big part, of the solution to modernize the Selective Service System. Pre-mobilization registration would meet our need to track completion of a new National Service requirement. Using the Selective Service system is cost effective since it would be unnecessary to develop a new system to support the SOS America military requirement.

General John Borling, our Chairman, has testified before you here in Washington but I take this opportunity to emphasize that the military is the most respected institution in the nation. However, since only a small percentage of our young men and women qualify physically and mentally for the All Volunteer Force (AVF), we support the need to expand the opportunities for military service.

SOS America advocates an affordable, one year, small unit, military experience. Imagine, mixing geography, backgrounds and ages 18-25 in a small unit of young people whose physical and mental requirements would be based on the ability to take care of themselves versus the strenuous requirements for the AVF. Absent exemption and given demand, they would train and serve in platoons of 30, companies of 100, and respond to the mission needs of the services, guard and reserve, federal and state agencies.

Shared values and experiences; the affirming reality that 'they served'—this is their earned benefit and the benefits to our nation. It's all about nation building in America. I commend to you all-- [www.sosamerica.org](http://www.sosamerica.org). Service over Self. Thank you.

9-12AM May 19, 2019 2 Min, oral statement and supporting evidence

2 Minute statements 4 times at Natl Commission Hearings on Civic Service

*[Handwritten signature]*

- 1) Peter Jesella, Vietnam-era veteran, joined Air Force rather than being drafted. At hearings in Los Angeles I spoke and submitted detailed information about a House bill from 1979 that outlined significant changes to the Selective Service System, very similar to the commission's mandate.

My verbal focus was on the proposal to move registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, for an on and off one-year discussion on what being patriotic means, especially in the voluntary performance of service in its many forms, and activities. Such as Military, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps contracted service, or local part-time community volunteerism.

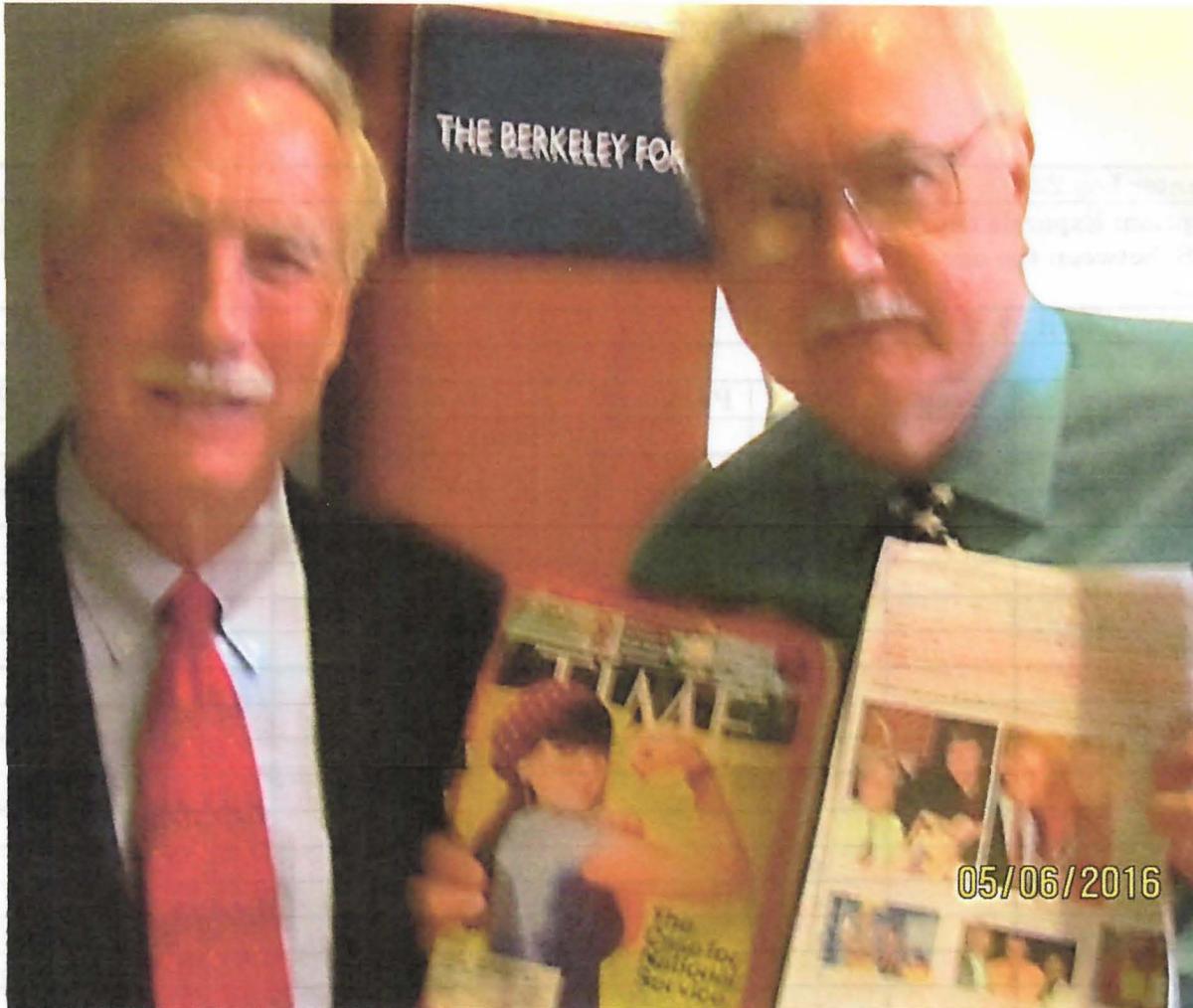
Since most youth would still be in high school the intention was for a Federal law that provided the basic framework, and resource information. However local high schools, education districts in every zip code across the nation would design their own syllabus and help include other youth not in high school. They both could than share the label "Government Boggy Man".

In January I was very disappointed to review the Interim Report and not read any reference to this catalyst for a thinking conversation on patriotic contributions to a civic society. I hope my presence hear today will more strongly impress on you the importance of this highly cost-effective youth wake-up call to citizen service.

Since 1979 I have asked leaders, professionals and institutions in various disciplines, to become aware of the nuances of this bill's intentions, with a specific reference to the proposal of moving initial registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday for this one-year discussion by youth. All above have provided me less than 1% feedback, great mystery to me. I hope the commission can request feedback from educators, national security, economic, social studies, etc. experts, institutions to provide a more detailed model implications of Why Not moving registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday for every zip code conversation.

Thank You.

Peter Jesella, [jesella@sonic.net](mailto:jesella@sonic.net), twitter @pjesella & @ncmnps 707 838-9841



5/06/2016 Senator Angus S. King Jr, of Maine, member of the Senate Armed Service Committee. He spoke at U.C. Berkeley student event on the national security needs of the nation.

After words I made him aware of House Armed Service Committee passing amendment to include women in the registration process of the Selective Service System. He was not aware of this.

I provided him a copy of amendment, table of the vote count. I also told him my wish that the Senate act on the House review of the Selective Service System through the Department of Defense but expand this review to reflect my outline for a Participatory Citizenship System.

Unclear if this is the reason why a few weeks later Senator McCain proposed in the Senate mark-up DOD 2017 funding bill to include women turning 18 to start registering if and when bill is signed into law. Senator McCain also proposed the creation of a 3 year public commission to review the Selective Service System with a much expanded, detailed mandate to explore improving the "ethos" of 2020's American civic society. It would be nice to know I might have been the educational catalyst to Senator Angus King Jr. that than informed Senator McCain.

**Peter Jesella, [jesella@sonic.net](mailto:jesella@sonic.net), twitter @pjesella & @ncmnps 707 838-9841**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

**114th Congress**

**Roll Call Vote No. 10**

**H.R. 4909**

<b>On Hunter Log 224</b>
Description: Expands the military selective service requirements to female citizens and residents of the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 26.
Wednesday, April 27, 2016

<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Present</b>
Mr. Thornberry		x		Mr. Smith	x		
Mr. Jones	x			Ms. Sanchez	x		
Mr. Forbes		x		Mr. Brady	x		
Mr. Miller		x		Mrs. Davis	x		
Mr. Wilson		x		Mr. Langevin	x		
Mr. LoBiondo		x		Mr. Larsen	x		
Mr. Bishop		x		Mr. Cooper	x		
Mr. Turner		x		Ms. Bordallo	x		
Mr. Kline		x		Mr. Courtney	x		
Mr. Rogers		x		Ms. Tsongas	x		
Mr. Franks		x		Mr. Garamendi		x	
Mr. Shuster		x		Mr. Johnson	x		
Mr. Conaway		x		Ms. Speier	x		
Mr. Lamborn		x		Mr. Castro	x		
Mr. Wittman		x		Ms. Duckworth	x		
Mr. Hunter		x		Mr. Peters	x		
Dr. Fleming		x		Mr. Veasey	x		
Mr. Coffman		x		Ms. Gabbard	x		
Mr. Gibson	x			Mr. Walz	x		
Mrs. Hartzler		x		Mr. O'Rourke	x		
Dr. Heck	x			Mr. Norcross	x		
Mr. Scott		x		Mr. Gallego	x		
Mr. Brooks		x		Mr. Takai	x		
Mr. Nugent		x		Ms. Graham	x		
Mr. Cook		x		Mr. Ashford	x		
Mr. Bridenstine		x		Mr. Moulton	x		
Dr. Wenstrup		x		Mr. Aguilar	x		
Mrs. Walorski		x					
Mr. Byrne		x					
Mr. Graves	x						
Mr. Zinke		x					
Ms. Stefanik		x					
Ms. McSally	x						
Mr. Knight	x						
Mr. MacArthur							
Mr. Russell		x					

	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Roll Call Vote Total:</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>



Eleanor and Donald Kaufman &lt;donelkaufman@gmail.com&gt;

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**The death of Eleanor Wismer Kaufman (organist)**2 messages

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**Don and/or Eleanor Kaufman** <donelkaufman@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 6:13 PM

To: "Mesach, Miriam Krisetya" &lt;krisetyasr@gmail.com&gt;, "Leonard, Anne Warkentin Dyck" &lt;lenanne@shaw.ca&gt;, Doreen Harms &lt;doreenharms@gmail.com&gt;, Waldemar Janzen &lt;wjanzan@mymts.net&gt;, mdsindonesia@ymail.com

Dear friends,

Four years ago when we relocated from our 40-year home, Eleanor expressed the desire to move into a place in North Newton where approximately 600 people live. And there are a similar number at Schowalter Villa in Hesston. We were given a space on the first floor called the 'high rise'. Her motivation was to locate herself near the 'many friends'. Well, we knew approximately half of them by name (especially Eleanor). As a child I grew up in a place where one didn't have to call them by name.

Eleanor became aware of a disease known as Parkinson's. When Earl came to live in this complex we learned that he too had the same illness as did Jean. Earl was getting along reasonably well but he actually died of an infection while in the hospital. Two years after we made the move we learned that PACE (organized by 6 counties) was encouraging people to stay in their homes as long as possible. Despite the need to travel to McPherson twice a week Eleanor felt that this was a tolerable arrangement.

We were pleased with our habitat while Eleanor doggedly determined to walk, however slowly. She kept doing this until she found that PACE had discovered the return of a colon cancer from twenty years ago. I was surprised that the nurses did not seem to have exercise on their schedule for her. After 2-3 weeks of comfortably resting she was alerted to an inability to walk plus the PACE Dr's need for more tests which required the patient's returning to the Newton Medical Center. When Eleanor returned to "Health Care" on Friday she was unable to walk. She was instructed to rest for Sat. & Sun. However, the delay on Friday left her exhausted. I expressed feeling grateful for her partnership and wanted her to lengthen the journey a bit longer. By Nancy's visit in the afternoon Eleanor had made her decision to be content. She died on July 13th. The Dr.'s promise became reality; she did not survive.

Since her passing we have been busy. Cremation was her obvious choice with the columbarium. August 10th was the day when we had the fewest family conflicts on schedules. Eleanor had kept records of all the songs she played on the organ. Nancy contacted <sup>Chris</sup> Tim Shaw and pastor Dawn Harms as coordinators.

The music had dignity and was glorious. And people had time to be with others leisurely in the afternoon. Nobu Tanaka drove 600 miles from Normal, IL to be present. This was equally true of delegations from the Midwest. Last Sunday's bulletin carried a brief poem by William Stafford that expressed my personal feelings about "The Way It Is" with change.

Donald Kaufman & families, Wismer and Kaufman  
3001 Ivy Drive, Apt 111  
North Newton, KS 67117  
316-283-7421; Email: donelkaufman@gmail.com

*Donald*

# *Old Order Mennonite Steering Committee*

CHAIRMAN - Voice of the Old Order Mennonite - NATIONAL

1233 Strickle Road  
Mifflinburg PA 17844  
570-966-4583

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  
570-966-4583

1001 E. Oregon Rd.  
Lititz, PA 17543  
October 16, 2019

National Commission on Military Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000 Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Greetings:

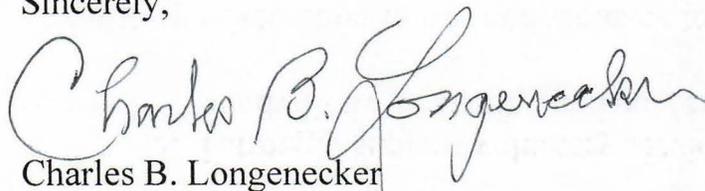
In reviewing Selective Service registration;

1. I oppose expanding the registration of all men and women ages 18 to 24.
2. I advocate for including provision to declare one's conscientious objection to war.
3. I strongly support voluntary service to promote peace and goodwill for humanity, and conserving the natural environment.

The history of resorting to war and violence to resolve differences has failed. Promote diplomacy.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Sincerely,

  
Charles B. Longenecker

Attn:RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01  
Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church Peace Committee  
Goessel, Kansas  
November 2019

To the members of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service:

We understand that your commission has been charged with making recommendations on the Selective Service and Draft Registration.

We are adding our support to the statements, recommendations, and requests submitted on September 19, 2019 to your committee by representatives of 13 Mennonite and related denominations.

We are also writing to express our own opinions, strongly held beliefs, and recommendations for your consideration. Below are several reasons for our recommendation that the Selective Service Registration should be ended. If it is continued, we ask for continued consideration for people of conscience who object to military participation.

#### **Costly**

The full cost of Selective Service registration exceeds the \$25 million Selective Service budget. Schools have the burden of verifying registration compliance for students. Various state laws requiring registration compliance for state benefits add costs to a state's budget with no return on the investment. Extending the registration to women would increase those costs.

#### **Unreasonably and Inequitably Punitive**

The current system is unreasonably punitive to men, who fail to register unintentionally or intentionally. Gil Coronado, the former director of Selective Service said in the 1999 annual report,

*"If we are not successful in reminding men in the inner cities about their registration obligation, especially minority and immigrant men, they will miss out on opportunities to achieve the American dream. They will lose eligibility for college loans and grants, government jobs, job training and for registration-age immigrants, citizenship. Unless we are successful in achieving high registration compliance, America may be on the verge of creating a permanent underclass."*[i]

#### **Failed System**

Selective Service registration is a failure. When given a choice, most men don't register. The SSS reports only 88% compliance with registration meaning millions of men are permanently burdened and punished by failing to register.

#### **Unnecessary**

Registration is unnecessary. In times of "emergency," such as after 9-11, the military had more than enough volunteers. Activating the draft was never seriously considered.

**Alternatives**

In the event of a true national emergency requiring more military personnel, it would not be a challenge, with today's technology, to generate a pool of names for a potential draft. It would certainly be less costly than maintaining the current registration.

**Provisions for People of Conscience**

We as members of a historic peace church have strong conviction that would apply to any implementation of a Selective Service registration.

We believe that there is always a better way to solve disputes than to resort to violence. In particular we believe that killing violates the teachings of Jesus and is fundamentally immoral.

Any selective service system must provide a pathway for people to register as Conscientious Objectors. Doing so would enable people of conscience to both be in compliance with the law and true to their conscience. If a draft were ever implemented those registered as conscientious objectors could be assigned to alternative service for the peaceful benefit of others.

Though failure to register is a felony, the government has not prosecuted anyone since 1986. Almost all who had been prosecuted were conscientious objectors who publicly asserted their non-compliance as a religious, moral, or political statement. As a result of this public witness, non-compliance with registration actually increased. By allowing people to register as conscientious objectors, the government may come closer to reaching its goal of increased compliance.

Because of the selective prosecution of people of conscience who have chosen not to register in the past, we believe that their lifetime punishments should be overturned and all other penalties eliminated.

In Peace,

Karen Unruh  
 Kristine Schmucker  
 Renae Schmidt  
 Hans Harder  
 Jason Peters  
 Carl Yoder  
 Myra Peters  
 Rosemary Reimer  
 Df Jensen  
 Cindy Hastings  
 Gene Hastings  
 Mary Schmidt  
 Janine Peters  
 Maria Brubaker

John Jay  
 Judy Goutzen  
 Carol Reimer Duerksen  
 Gae E. Jan  
 Ed  
 Paula Benner  
 Pary Alicia Hertzler  
 Jim Jay  
 Gretchen Schrag  
 B. J. ...

Signatures – continued

Dwight M Fleming  
A Dennis D. Benson  
Justin Umek  
John L. Holt  
Kyle Umek  
Deane Umek  
Jenny Fast  
Timothy Joseph  
Meghan Umek  
Miyun Schmidt  
Patricia D. Schmidt  
Joan Mikkil  
Jo M  
Ann Hilbert  
David Esau  
Shaun Boese  
Vint P  
Reed Seaton  
Marilyn Umek Fleming  
Rose Fleming  
MAD Voth  
Erwin P Goossen  
Scott Erb

Chris Baker  
Marette Buller  
Dwight J. Fleming  
Leona Schroeder  
Justin Umek  
Marvin Voth  
Arlene Esau  
Delton Voth  
Patrick Phung  
Anthony Esau  
Christiana Miller  
Bryant Miller  
Amy Fleming  
Marjorie Shoemaker  
Velma Hebert

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# Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

121 Krumstown Rd Myerstown Pa 17067

12/3/2019

The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck, Chairman

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

2530 Crystal Drive

Suite 1000, Box #63

Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference, a historic peace church, we are writing in response to your invitation for public comment.

A brief history of Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference. Our roots lie in the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland over 500 years ago. More recently, in 1893, the Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference developed from a withdrawal of conservative minded leaders and laity from the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. In the present day, our Conference has members and churches in various states, including Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kentucky.

Our beliefs, based on the Bible, are that God clearly intended and made provisions for two kingdoms, [KJV John 18:36] one kingdom as earthly rulers and one kingdom of Heaven, a spiritual God centered kingdom. The teachings of Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible are clear that as citizens of this country, we are responsible to honor the government, be law abiding and upbuilding citizens [KJV 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-17]. Jesus' teachings, as related to government matters, also clearly in-

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dedicate that his followers are to be non-resistant [KJV Matthew 5:38-48]. Non-resistance being not only opposed to being involved in the military but also to be practiced as a daily way of life. Because of this we cannot conscientiously participate in the military or many government affairs, we cannot conscientiously bring a lawsuit against our fellow man.

We believe, through the teachings of the Bible, that God understands the fallen nature of man and has made provision through the governments of the earth to bear the sword, to be the keepers of law and order [KJV Romans 13:1-7].

Within this framework of beliefs, we find that service does have inherent value. Its value lies in Jesus' teaching his followers to daily serve him by serving their fellowman [KJV Luke 6:27-36]. According to the Bible and our beliefs [KJV Romans 12:1-21], a life of service is one area Christians will be judged by God as being worthy or unworthy of eternal life in Heaven [KJV Matthew 25:31-46]. Would it benefit the people of our country to focus on service as defined by the Bible? Absolutely. However, this is a work for the churches and not for the government.

If we can be clear, our understanding of service is different than promoted by the government.

Concerning the military draft, our desire would be that women cannot be drafted. Whatever the result of the Commission's recommendations to Congress, we plead that a mechanism would be in place for those who are conscientiously opposed to service as defined by the government, to be able through proof of their beliefs to be exempt from said service. A current example would be the draft boards as administered by the Selective Service System. Currently the Selective Service System administers an Alternative Service Program. Through our mutual understanding of this program, Weaverland Conference has established Weaverland Disaster Service, a program for our youth to serve in areas that have suffered natural disasters, doing cleanup and rebuilding work. This organization was established in 2005 to be an acceptable form of alternative service. Our plea is that the Weaverland Disaster Service would continue to be an acceptable form of alternative service.

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Another area of concern is the Interim Report's recommendation of service promoting curriculum for the schools. We do not have a clear understanding of the Commission's recommendations concerning this matter. Whatever the outcome of this recommendation, we plead that our private schools would be exempted from a requirement to implement service promoting curriculum.

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment. We thank God that our earthly government has allowed us to practice our religious beliefs. May God continue to bless the government of this country.

Sincerely,

Melvin Sauder, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

*Melvin Sauder 12/3/19*

Elvin Martin, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

*Elvin Martin 12/3/19*

James Burkholder, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

*James Burkholder 12-3-19*



November 8, 2019

To the members of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service:  
Greetings in the Name of Jesus.

Recently Mennonite Central Committee brought together representatives of various Christian denominations who share a common core conviction that followers of Jesus should not participate as combatants in the military.

The Mennonite Brethren Church was not represented at that gathering, but we have a shared history with those groups and agree with many of the convictions that they formulated in their letter to you. This letter is uniquely our response, though it quotes at length from the joint letter in places where we are in full agreement with them.

As Mennonite Brethren in the United States, we have published the following statement:

*“In seeking to be devoted followers of Jesus, ... we are called to assume roles that seek to heal society rather than contribute to cycles of hostility and antagonism. Historically this has meant that we do not serve as combatants during times of war but choose alternative forms of service. Some Mennonites believe that certain carefully considered applications of violence are justified when they work redemptively to bring peace. In all cases, however, we agree that our actions in the midst of social conflict should make restoration of peace a top priority.”*

As this quotation indicates, our denomination does not claim that all its members reach the same conclusion on the exact implications of our commitment to peace-making, in response to the mandate Jesus gave us. We ask our churches to teach and encourage our members to engage in careful, discerning and prayerful examination of the various Christian options. We are grateful that the United States government guarantees its citizens the freedom to live according to their conscience. We are also grateful that as one of the so-called “Historic Peace Churches” we as Mennonite Brethren have been invited into conversation around questions of national service, and specifically to respond to the recommendations of the *National Commission on Military, National and Public Service*.

We therefore sincerely share with you our convictions and our requests.

Following the teaching in Matthew 5 and in accordance with Jesus’ example, we are called to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, pray for those who persecute us, refuse to violently resist the evildoer, and forgive as we have been forgiven. Conscientious objectors believe Jesus commands reverence for each human life, since every person is made in the image of God. In following Jesus, we serve in ways that build up, nurture, and encourage rather than destroy. We do so even in situations where “others” may be targeted as enemies of the state. Our opposition to war is not cowardice but an expression of Christ’s forgiving love as shown on the cross. We see ourselves as ambassadors of peace.

USMB - Increasing Impact Together  
PO Box 20200 • Wichita, KS 67208  
316-558-8688 • 800-257-0515 (Toll Free)  
offices@usmb.org • www.usmb.org

As a denomination within the Anabaptist tradition we stand firmly with those Christians throughout history who by conscience were not able to participate in the military. One of the important reasons our spiritual ancestors migrated from Europe to America was for religious freedom, which included not participating in military service. In many cases those in our own religious tradition were targeted as enemies of the state, not because they have done anything to undermine or oppose the state but simply because they refused to pick up arms. They believed that the state should not coerce in matters of religious conviction. They understood Jesus' teaching to mean that his followers would not join or support armed resistance but would overcome evil with good. To that end, serving others is one of our core values. We encourage church members of all ages and abilities to find ways to bless others both within and outside the church.

As followers of Jesus Christ, many of us have a deep sense of mission from Christ himself to wage not a physical war but instead a spiritual war against the powers and principalities of this world that seek to destroy the image of God in the human soul. Our desire is to bring others to salvation, not to destruction. Additionally, we seek to bring wholeness to lives that are hurting and distressed. Many within our US Mennonite Brethren family find it impossibly repulsive to kill another human being, for if it is another follower of Christ we would be killing a brother or sister, and if it is not a follower of Christ we would find ourselves cutting this human being off from an opportunity to find grace and everlasting life. In our minds acts of killing do not demonstrate the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ that calls us to bring healing, wholeness and peace to a hurting and sin-sick world.

In light of these deeply held beliefs, we would like to respond to some of the Commission's interim recommendations:

- We are requesting that no law be enacted that would require universal obligation for men or women to serve in the military.
- As long as a government Selective Service System exists, we request that it continue to be civilian-led.
- We request that protections and alternative service programs be maintained for those who conscientiously object to military service.
- We respectfully request the inclusion of a provision to identify as a conscientious objector at the time of Selective Service registration.
- We ask that the government, at both federal and state levels, not penalize people who do not register for Selective Service as a matter of conscience.
- We recommend that women not be required to register for Selective Service. (For some of us, this grows out of our conviction that no one—man or woman—should be required to register for military service. For others of us, this grows out of our traditional understanding of women's roles.)
- We strongly value service but are concerned by the Commission's conflation of service to the community with military service.
- We do not support sharing information and cross-recruitment of volunteers in our Christian service programs with the military.

- We are concerned by the influence the military has on schools, including efforts to increase military recruitment within schools as well as to incorporate military elements into school curricula. We are also concerned by the disproportionate focus by military recruiters on low-income communities and communities of color.

We express thanks that in the United States our Christian convictions are respected. We are grateful for the Commission's work and commit to praying regularly for our government officials.

Thank you for hearing our views.  
Sincerely,



Don Morris  
National Director



David Hardt  
Leadership Board



Tim Sullivan  
Board of Faith and Life

December 1, 2019

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject: General re: required national service

To Whom It Concerns:

I wish to comment on two elements in the discussion regarding required national service.

1. I am opposed to a national service requirement. Regarding military service, I am a pacifist, and am conscientiously opposed to warfare. This is not me sending someone to fight in my place. I am opposed to warfare and its preparation on the part of *anyone*. Our tax money and the gifts and passions of our citizens should go elsewhere. In my view, no one should be required nor afforded the opportunity to learn to kill. No one should be afforded the opportunity nor required to work in support of military efforts, such as in the roles of cooks, medical personnel, computer programming, etc.

Regarding other service – we should encourage our citizens to see beyond national boundaries and look for service opportunities that are globally inspired. To think of “national” service is too limited a horizon. Certainly some service opportunities could be local in nature. But even then, the goal should be to strengthen the concept of the human race as one, rather than bolster the tribal mindset of nationalism. For overseas assignments, these should be in tandem with, and following the lead of, the host communities, rather than thinking of how the U.S. solely or primarily can benefit.

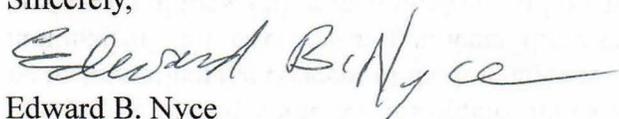
So I don't think any service should be required. Service opportunities that are afforded should be with all of humanity in mind, rather than formulated for an advantage solely or primarily for the U.S.

2. I am opposed to the continuation of required Selective Service registration. Hence, I am also opposed to women being required to register.

Of what am I in favor? Encouraging and providing resources for our citizens wishing to serve for opportunities via NGOs with a global perspective. And in the U.S., optional service opportunities with those federal, state, and local agencies working at things like forest preservation, mental health concerns, climate change issues, international understanding, practical peacemaking, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Nyce  
391 Akron Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522

October 29, 2019

To: The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000 Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

We as members of the Mennonite Congregation of Boston are offering our strong support for your efforts to establish a coordination of service opportunities under a Commission of National Service. As Mennonites, an integral aspect of our faith has been to dedicate our lives in service to the needs of others and to foster communities of peace that can diminish those walls built by nationalism, racism, sexism and economic disparity. A significant number of our congregation have served in voluntary service programs to provide for material relief needs as well as medical, educational and other critical services within the United States and in many foreign countries. We can all attest to the satisfaction of having met some of these needs as well as the lasting effects on the growth of our personal lives in regard to our responsibilities in this world of such diverse peoples and their circumstances.

As Mennonites we have historically maintained a peace and non-resistance position and would recommend that many of the voluntary service programs would also qualify as an alternative service option for those who choose conscientious objector status in times of military conscription. We also recommend that these voluntary service programs be placed under civilian rather than military administration.

We would suggest that the National Service Commission eventually release a coordinated service program through all manner of social and printed media. A significant effort should be made to explain the personal and public benefits of voluntary service. We would further emphasize that those voluntary service programs should provide room, board, travel, a minimal stipend, educational loan deferment and mentoring support so that those with limited means, experience and training will not be excluded.

The value of voluntary service, especially among young people, can certainly provide a long lasting unifying effect among our various levels of social and intellectual levels particularly in these times as global diversities are increasingly affecting us more directly.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Bruce Bradshaw, Pastor  
Mennonite Congregation of Boston  
1555 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

November 10, 2019

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington , VA 22202

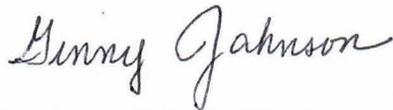
Dear Commissioners:

Rochester Friends (Quaker ) Meeting (Church) approved the enclosed statement to the The National Commission at our business meeting on November 10, 2019,

Thank you for the opportunity to have input.

Approved at Meeting for Worship for Business, November 10. 2019  
Rochester MN Friends Meeting

Ginny Johnson Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginny Johnson".

Rochester Friends Meeting  
PO Box 6763  
Rochester, MN 55903-6763

## **A Response to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service**

Nonviolence is a basic guiding principle of the Religious Society of Friends [Quaker]. Consequently, any recommendations we offer will have as their *ultimate* goal the elimination of war and related military escalation. In that light, Rochester (MN) Friends Meeting offers the following points (followed by supporting rationale) for consideration by the Commission:

- 1. Elimination of the current Selective Service System**
- 2. Strengthening of provisions for Conscientious Objectors**
- 3. Significant reduction of the military budget**
- 4. Promotion of voluntary public service**

Supporting rationale for the above points:

### **1. Elimination of the current Selective Service System**

The purpose of the Selective Service System (SSS) is to prepare for war, and modern warfare is nothing short of mass killing, something Friends believe is both wrong and unnecessary. Killing is a denial of our common humanity. War and the nearly worldwide extent of United States militarism is a threat to our very existence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said on the eve of his assassination, "It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world, it is nonviolence or nonexistence. That is where we are today." We oppose conscription for war, thus we do not favor conscription or a draft.

### **2. Strengthening of provisions for Conscientious Objectors**

Should mandatory conscription be implemented, it should include an option for conscientious objectors. Freedom of Religion is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Conscientious Objection is part of the religious belief of many religious traditions besides Quakers. Further, in *United States v. Seeger*, 380 U.S. 163 (1965), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that one can also be a conscientious objector without a religious belief in a Supreme Being.

Those with religious beliefs that prohibit them from registering with the SSS face significant punitive consequences; e.g., loss of eligibility for some college loans and grants, government jobs, job training, citizenship, and in some states, driver's licenses or state IDs. We believe these facts challenge the truth of SSS Director Donald Benton's insistence that "the current system seems to work well; . . . and we believe that there's no reason to allow people to opt out before there is a need for them to show that they

are a conscientious objector." We believe any proposed mandatory conscription *must* include an option for conscientious objectors.

### **3. Significant reduction of the military budget**

We recommend that a large portion of the current military budget be diverted to develop alternative jobs for those in military-related industries and to study and implement known methods for nonviolence to resolve conflict. Chenoweth and Stephan, in *Why Civil Resistance Works* (Columbia University Press, 2011), demonstrate that nonviolence is twice as effective as violence in effecting regime change. Diverting military funds to nonviolent strategies makes economic sense.

### **4. Promotion of voluntary public service**

We recommend that voluntary public service be encouraged; that it be made available as an alternative option to military service with the same benefits as those who serve in the military, supported by the military budget. One previous model is the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1932 to 1942. Women could be included. Many other volunteer organizations need workers: Peace Corps, World Teach, Habitat for Humanity, AmeriCorps, and Global Community to name a few of the dozens available. Think if we had as many volunteers doing public service as we have military worldwide what that would do for the U.S. public image.

A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the

National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service

15185 346. th. Ave

Faulkton S.D.

57438, 5204.

Dear Commissioners,

11. 29. 2019.

We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft.

First, to be clear, we realize that government is ordained by God (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our government as Christ taught us (Matthew 22.21), "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So we pay taxes & obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's". We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage.

We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass.

However, woman's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts, (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a

strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society.

Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women.

Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator.

We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between "giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" and "giving to God the things that are God's". We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services.

Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Michael Waldner*

Hutterian Brethren

7 December 2019

Dr Joseph Heck, Chairman  
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington VA 22202

Subject: Selective Service

Dear Dr Heck:

I am a military veteran with 22+ years of active duty service, and I have three daughters whose ages are in the window of a potential future military draft. If they volunteer to serve in the military, I have told them that they have my blessing to “be all they can be”, as the slogan goes. What I do not support, however, is the possibility of them being required to register for Selective Service and being compelled to serve when able bodied males may not be compelled to serve.

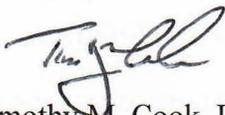
My objections are on moral grounds. If America chooses to compel women to fight its next war, when there is even one able bodied male relaxing on a college campus, that would be a national disgrace and America doesn't deserve to win. If there is a crisis so bad that only a draft will suffice, then men need to step up first. Period.

Activist Federal judges notwithstanding, the Constitution does not require all women to be vulnerable to conscription because a few can qualify to serve in combat specialties. That definition of “fairness” is disingenuous, because it attempts to conceal a broader set of motives and desired outcomes unrelated to military service.

If fairness is the goal, then compel everyone to serve without exception—that's fair. If gender equality is the goal, then abolish the Selective Service system entirely—that's equal. If military readiness and effectiveness to respond to a national emergency is the goal, then retain the current practice of requiring only males to register and serve in a military draft.

There are many ways for citizens to serve without requiring them to register for a potential draft and compelling them to serve in the military. I appreciate your service on the commission and wish you well as you attempt to craft a truly fair and feasible path forward.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Cook, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
9258 Hedge Row Court  
Centerville OH 45458

Judith Stetson  
261 Quisset Ave.  
Woods Hole. MA 02543

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attention : RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

December 10, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

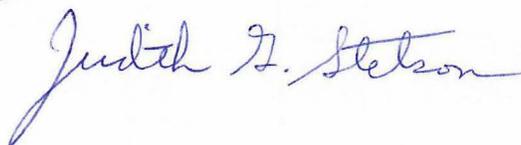
PLEASE read the enclosed mailing from the Union of concerned Scientists. It documents the real threat to our National Security, our public health, our public infrastructures, and our food supplies.

NONE of these threats to our country can be met by military means. In fact, our military budget takes taxpayer dollars from funding the ways to meet these grave threats to our country. Indeed, our military adds to the threat of climate change with every warplane flown, every naval vessel sailed, every soldier transported to one of our 80 military bases.

On a more personal note, my father enlisted in the Navy after Pearl Harbor and was a Lieutenant jg when he was killed in 1942 on duty in a naval airplane crash. He left a widow who had only been married for seven years and four children under the age of six. It was difficult to explain to us little ones what Death was, let alone why our beloved father had been killed.

Please end the draft. We must stop training our young men to be killers. We should instead encourage them to be good stewards of our beloved land and to care for all our fellow creatures in this imperiled planet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith G. Stetson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

This letter is in response to the Commission's request for comments on military, national, and public service. My comments are on the performance of women in the armed forces, the draft, and combat. My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Air Force. In addition, I assume either draft registration of some sort will continue or there will be a draft itself in response to a deteriorating national security environment. I do not address the necessity or morality of a draft or registration.

### ***Performance***

It should not be necessary to make the argument that women can successfully adapt to military life and serve effectively in all military specialties under all conditions. The history of the last 80 years makes it extraordinarily clear they can and have.

For example, in World War II, their performance was outstanding from the unbelievably primitive conditions of front-line field hospitals in Europe, to the Women's Airforce Service Pilots in the United States (technically civilians, but nevertheless the first Americans to wear what is today known as Air Force Blue), to the western Pacific, where, unfortunately, some were prisoners of war in Santo Tomas, Philippines. I know of their performance because a former neighbor in my youth was a Women's Army Corps member who made it all the way from the hills of West Virginia to Japan. Her enthusiasm for her service matched that of my aunt who was a member of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, better known as the WAVES.

The humble expansion of service roles for women during World War II was culturally dramatic at the time but has since been dwarfed by spectacular achievements during the last 18 years of combat operations in the Middle East and South Asia. Contemporary events have been vividly described in numerous books, videos, and blogs, making it unnecessary to substantiate this claim by citing vignettes or statistics from recent events.

### ***Draft***

For those who might argue that requiring women to be subject to a military draft is unprecedented, note that there is no precedent for the United States either but we are here, and there *is* precedent for the Congress moving to draft women. At the beginning of 1945, the shortage of nurses in the armed forces was so severe -- a 42% shortage at Army hospitals in the United States alone -- that President Roosevelt addressed it in his January 6th radio address on the State of the Union. He said "[w]e need 20,000 more trained nurses" and called on Congress "to amend the Selective Service Act to provide for the induction of registered nurses into the armed forces." The president of the American Nurses Association supported the idea but only as a start for selective service for *all* women. The House of Representatives approved the Nurses Selective Service Act of 1945 (H.R. 2277) by 347 to 42 on March 7, 1945, and the Senate Military Affairs Committee approved a nurse draft measure on March 28th. But 41 days later, Germany surrendered, allowing the transfer of nurses from the European theater to the Pacific. This, combined with an increase in volunteers, alleviated the shortage.

### ***Combat***

The big issue facing the Commission is whether women should be drafted into combat units. Perceived reluctance to do so is cultural or, perhaps more accurately, psychological. If there is any doubt that cultural (or psychological) barriers can be overcome, look back to the Greatest Generation (birth years 1901-1924) who came of age preferring crisp gender-role definitions and yet produced the largest female industrial work force in all of American history up to that time. Today, those cultural barriers do not need to be overcome because they no longer exist. They fell long time ago, largely due to the demonstrated and proven performance of women in combat zones in the Middle East and South Asia.

Congress created the Commission after interesting legislative developments in 2016 in the House Armed Service Committee and the United States Senate. That was the year women and the draft emerged as a noteworthy political issue. Ten years ago, I wrote a OpEd for my local newspaper, The Fairfield (California) Daily Republic, rebutting a syndicated OpEd that voiced objections to assigning women to combat duties.

Copies of both are attached. The response to mine was interesting: no response at all. I wasn't surprised. The people were far ahead of the politics, and they still are.

*But the crux of this matter is no longer cultural or even political. It is now strategic: by including women in a draft, we can immediately double the potential size of the armed forces by drawing upon the full reservoir of American talent.* The unfolding international scene is increasingly risky with currently foreseeable potential threats expanding from violent radical extremists to include four nation-states. The size, variety, and geography of these increasingly aggressive actors threatens to swamp the ability of our armed forces should further conflict develop, which is a very real possibility. It is very likely that, due to circumstances beyond the United States' influence or control, we are going to need a larger armed force sooner or later, and the sooner we admit that, the better.

Any concern that some may have about women being assigned to duties that they are not capable of performing is misguided. All recruits, men and women, are tested, assessed, and evaluated for their aptitudes and abilities, and assigned to specialties for which they are qualified and capable of performing.

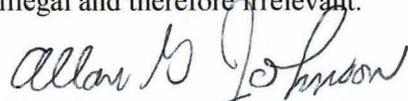
Not to include women in a draft registration requirement is to institutionally diminish the need for the talents and skills of just over 50% of the population and overtly imply they are second-class and not needed at critical historical moments, thus *de facto* denying them full citizenship and relegating them to a permanent back seat in all aspects of American life. Such a stance flies in the face of demonstrated and proven performance of women, contemptuously ignores the talent of over half of Americans, and grotesquely dishonors the service and sacrifices of those women who have served throughout our Nation's history. Omitting women from a draft registration requirement would be just plain insulting to those who have gone before and those women who have the potential to contribute, and that's all of them.

If Uncle Sam's back is to the wall, which has happened before and can happen again, every woman, drafted or volunteer, combat or support, will be needed, and, afterwards, will have been proud to have worn the uniform of one of our armed forces and performed a vital role in attaining victory for the United States of America.

I have unbounded faith in *all* the youth of America today, and "all" means ALL. If drafted, even into combat units, women will do just fine.

### *National Service*

Finally, please dispense with the notion of mandatory national or public service other than a military draft. The 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution against involuntary servitude renders the concept illegal and therefore irrelevant.



Allan G. Johnson, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
4010 Shaker Run Circle  
Fairfield, CA 94533-7764

2 attachments:

Women, combat and Neanderthals, OpEd, Fairfield (California) Daily Republic, September 13, 2009

Women 'attached' to combat units, Syndicated OpEd, Fairfield (California) Daily Republic, September 1, 2009

Dear

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) considered the questions of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service regarding the Selective Service System registration.

We appreciate this opportunity to make our concerns known to the Commission.

Since our founding, Quakers have the conviction that it is our duty as a people of faith to urge world leaders to work for alternatives to war in solving human conflicts.

“We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fighting with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world.”

-George Fox, Declaration to Charles II, 1660.

Here are some thoughts for your consideration:

- We call for the abolition of the Selective Service System (SSS) as it currently exists. We call on our political leaders, and commit ourselves to work with renewed dedication to abolish it. We shall oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. We do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion. SSS registration should be eliminated.
- It is especially egregious to have this program continue without a provision to declare oneself a conscientious objector.
- Penalties for noncompliance are not proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disadvantages, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.
- As a nation with a large immigrant population, we feel it is particularly important to remove the disqualification for residents and undocumented people from the ability to apply for citizenship if they have not registered with the SSS. Many child immigrants are not aware of their legal obligation to register. Removal of such penalties should also be retroactive.

We raise our children to respect the sacredness of life. It is inconsistent with these ideals to compel all residents to register with Selective Service and potentially be forced to learn to kill.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Pope, clerk  
Santa Barbara Friends Meeting

December 2019

National Commission on Military,  
National, and Public Service  
Attn: RFI Comment-Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite 1000,Rm.1029  
Arlington, VA. 22202

Dear Sirs:

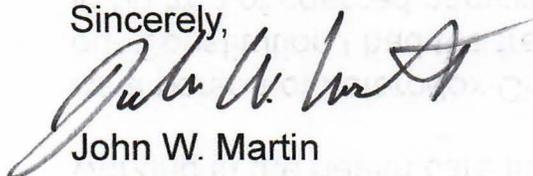
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Commission for this opportunity to affirm my Christian beliefs regarding changes to the military Selective Service system.

In regards to the issue of national service, I want to share with you my own personal feelings and strongly held Christian beliefs. On March 12, 1971, I was assigned to preform 24 months of alternative service as a religious Conscientious Objector. I found work at a local Jewish Hospital after trying to find work at various non profit and religious organizations. I continued working in the health care industry for another 25 years.

As a person of heterodox Christian faith, I am thankful that under our Constitution I had the freedom to follow my conscience, and to be free of coerced participation in war and militarism. Following the teaching of Jesus in the Ethic of Reciprocity (Matt.7) and the Beatitudes (Matt.5), we are called to be the ambassadors of peace, and to demonstrate relevance to life, (Deut.5). Our opposition to war is an expression of our personal conviction that each person is made in the image of God. Serving others and overcoming evil with good are the core value of Christians. Therefore, I join my voice with those that are concerned by the Commission's conflation of service to the community with military service.

As long as the Selective Service System exists, I strongly support its continued civilian leadership. I offer my suggestion, however, that conscientious objectors be included in the system's process wherever possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

John W. Martin

December 20, 2019

Dear Sir:

I am a military veteran of 27 years and was drafted during the Vietnam conflict. I served in Saigon for a year and a half and was one of the lucky ones to return home safely.

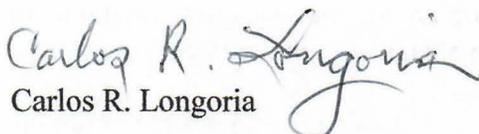
I read through your Interim Report Executive Summary with respect to the Selective Service System that you are considering an option to expand the registration requirement to include women. I strongly oppose this consideration. Why are you even considering drafting women when they have no business in the military in the first place. They do not belong in the military except maybe in very limited positions that require them to wear a dress and not a man's uniform. Our current military is way overly saturated with women and this is not good. When I was in the service, the very few women that were in were not even allowed on Navy ships. Now they are all over the place. There is nothing more disgusting than to see a female in combat boots and fatigues or even in a sailor's dress blue uniform. To make matters worse, the DOD has relaxed the strict uniform and grooming rules and regulations that apply to men in order to accommodate women. Now the women in the military can wear their hair long or in a pony tail. How pathetic is this and what an insult to the men in uniform. A mother who abandons her kids at home to enlist in the military should be ashamed of herself and the DOD should not allow this to happen.

Please don't tell me that times have changed. The military has always been a male environment and it must remain that way and women do not belong. I always thought the Marines were a select group of rough and tough men. Not anymore. They allow women in their ranks and that makes them a bunch of weaklings.

It seems to me that the military recruiters are scraping the bottom of the barrel by enlisting any female that walks in through their doors in order to meet recruitment goals. If worse comes to worse, initiate the draft again for men only....no women. Our young generation of pot smoking men of today need to experience military discipline that will teach them to become better members of society. Because of their physical anatomy, women in the military will never be combat ready. The majority of men don't want them in their ranks and are forced to put up with them. What a sad state of affairs.

On the same subject, transgender people should not be allowed to serve in the military for reasons that should be obvious to any politician with any lick of common sense.

I hope that you in the National Committee will take my thoughts and comments seriously and act on them. There is no doubt that the current number of women in the military needs to be vastly reduced if we are to have strong fighting force. The answer is simple.....stop enlisting women in the military. Thank you.

  
Carlos R. Longoria

December 2019

Dear members of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service,

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) considered the questions of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service regarding the Selective Service System registration. We appreciate this opportunity to make our concerns known to the Commission. Since our founding, Quakers have the conviction that it is our duty as a people of faith to urge world leaders to work for alternatives to war in solving human conflicts.

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world."

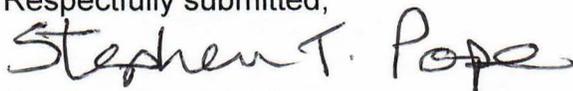
-George Fox, Declaration to Charles II, 1660.

Here are some thoughts for your consideration:

- We call for the abolition of the Selective Service System (SSS) as it currently exists. We call on our political leaders, and commit ourselves to work with renewed dedication to abolish it. We shall oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. We do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion. SSS registration should be eliminated.
- It is especially egregious to have this program continue without a provision to declare oneself a conscientious objector.
- Penalties for noncompliance are not proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disadvantages, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a driver license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.
- As a nation with a large immigrant population, we feel it is particularly important to remove the disqualification for residents and undocumented people from the ability to apply for citizenship if they have not registered with the SSS. Many child immigrants are not aware of their legal obligation to register. Removal of such penalties should also be retroactive.

We raise our children to respect the sacredness of life. Training people to kill is inconsistent with this ideal. National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Pope, clerk  
Santa Barbara Friends Meeting  
2012 Chapala Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Attn: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

Howdy Friends,

I believe that draft registration needs to be ended for everyone and not extended to women.

And, most certainly, I believe that the Draft should never be reinstated.

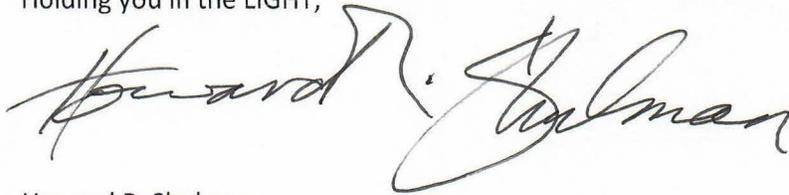
For those already affected... criminal, civil, federal, and state penalties for failure to register needs to be stopped and overturned.

I also believe that National Service needs to remain voluntary and that compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a free and democratic society.

As a Nation and an example to the rest of the World, I believe that together we will find the wisdom and courage to resolve conflict without resorting to violence and war.

We are all in this together.

Holding you in the LIGHT,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard R. Shulman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "H".

Howard R. Shulman

December 26, 2019

*Rosalind Ellis Heid*  
250 President Street #701  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4462  
410.625.9262  
paulheid@msn.com

June 27, 2018

Mr. Steven Barney  
Former General Counsel to the Senate Armed Service Committee  
National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive - Suite 1000 – Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: SAVE THE SELECTIVE SERVICE!

Dear Mr. Barney:

It concerns me the Selective Service may eventually be phased out. This is a bad idea. When I learned about the National Commission of which you are a member, I'm hoping you might provide details about the type of comments and suggestions you have received during your outreach sessions. I have sent in several messages on line myself, yet nowhere can I find an overview of what people are saying. Is there a press release about your past meetings I might access?

I believe the Selective Service is necessary. Especially in light of cyber warfare threats. We are too complacent these days about the internet and the potential of crippling attacks. We need people in place who can be called upon should a deliberate cyber-attack occur.

Please let me know the type of feedback you are receiving and how most American view your mandate as spelled out on your website. Also, the Selective Service must stop discriminating against women. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Rosalind Heid*  
Rosalind Heid

Response Requested



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

May 17, 2018

Kent Abernathy  
Executive Director  
National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Friends:

I wish I could be with you all in person at the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service's meeting in Jacksonville to tell you how supportive I am of the commission's goals during these crucial times for our country.

Whether freeing Europe from the tyranny of fascism, exploring the cosmos or caring for our allies abroad, Americans have always responded to the call of service. We will not do so successfully unless our best and brightest are leading our government, military and public service organizations. Youthful energy is needed more now than ever to fight for democracy and spread the message of liberty and equality.

I commend the leadership and vision of this bipartisan commission as you work to strengthen our American democracy and remain optimistic that Americans will continue to answer our nation's call to service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301

SEP 25 2019

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Joseph J. Heck  
Chairman of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Care of Katie McSheffrey  
2530 Crystal Dive  
Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington, VA 22202

*Commitment / personal*  
Dear Dr. Heck,

I would like to thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to brief the Reserve Forces Policy Board at our annual meeting on September 10, 2019. Your brief on the Commission's charter and work on the future of the Selective Service System and a culture of service was very informative, especially in light of the return to great power competition envisioned in the National Defense Strategy. The information you shared will assist us as we examine the impacts that an Operational Reserve has on service members, their families, and their employers, and we look forward to reading your final report in March of next year.

We greatly appreciate the perspective you provided to the Board and the opportunity for our members to ask questions and engage in dialogue. The Board will continue to examine the best ways for the Reserve Components to meet future challenges and we look forward to continuing the discussion on optimizing readiness and response throughout the Total Force.

*wow! you all are  
doing a most  
important work  
That is so  
important to our  
country's future  
AM*

Sincerely,  
*[Signature]*

Arnold L. Punaro  
MajGen, USMCR (Ret)  
Chairman

**Robert A. McInnes**  
7828 Spring Ave.  
Elkins Park, PA 19027  
[rmcinnnes7262@gmail.com](mailto:rmcinnnes7262@gmail.com)  
704-451-0593

Dr. Joseph Heck  
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, #63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Dear Dr. Heck,

It has come to my attention that the US Commission on Military, National and Public Service is in the process of reviewing the current Selective Service requirements, in light of the fact that the US District Court (for the Southern District of Texas) has declared on February 22, 2019, that the male-only requirement for registration is unconstitutional.

Among the options available that the Commission is considering are:

- 1) The emination of the Selective Service Bureau,
- 2) Broadening Selective Service Registration to include women,
- 3) Establishing options that include civilian service to the nation.

I am petitioning the Commission with my fervent hope that you will decide on the second option—to broaden the Selective Service requirement to include women. Options one and three both will decrease military readiness and leave us vulnerable during times of need—especially when emergencies can arise over night.

Sincerely,



Robert A. McInnes

GWEN MOORE  
4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES  
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
OVERSIGHT



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2252 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
February 27, 2019

Dr. Joseph Heck  
Chairman  
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As the Commission considers its final recommendations to Congress on the Selective Service System pursuant to Public Law No. 115-232, I write to urge you to include a proposal similar to my bill (H.R. 4412) from last Congress that would allow a registrant for Selective Service to indicate, *at the time of registration*, their desire to be classified as a conscientious objector.

As you all know, our country has long recognized the moral dilemma faced by those with strong religious or moral grounds against serving in the military and engaging in war. As noted by the Supreme Court in *Welsh vs. United States*, there are many in our country “whose consciences, spurred by deeply held moral, ethical, or religious beliefs, would give them no rest or peace if they allowed themselves to become a part of an instrument of war.”

Historically, Congress has provided for alternative service or exemption from service for those whose scruples and conscience cannot allow them to participate in combat or in any form of military service.

Additionally, in today's all-volunteer military, those who have moral objections to participating in war can opt not to join the military. However, under the Universal Military Training and Service Act, all men between the ages of 18 and 26, including conscientious objectors, are still required to register for a national draft, should Congress authorize one.

As you put together recommendations, I urge you to consider the needs of conscience objectors. One long overdue improvement to the Selective Service registration process that I urge you to consider would provide registrants, at the time of registration, with the option to indicate a desire to be classified as a conscientious objector. That provision would make clear that simply making that indication at registration does not bind the U.S. in any way and does not assure that the registrant will be so classified. However, it would make it easier for those with such objections to make them clear at the time of registration.

I want to be clear that this suggestion would not change current requirements for how such claims are handled should a draft occur, including the need to provide supporting evidence. My

suggestions simply tries to make the process of registering those objections more direct and straightforward.

Again, our nation has a history of recognizing, as noted by the Supreme Court in *Gillette v. United States*, “the situation of conscientious objectors to war, who, absent special status, would be put to a hard choice between contravening imperatives of religion and conscience or suffering penalties” and as you consider this system, I hope you will include recommendations that consider those needs and allow those with such objections to lodge them simply and fairly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gwen Moore", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gwen Moore

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Commission ... has been charged with making recommendations concerning the future of military service. Following are my comments and opinions related to this.

Registration for a potential draft should be eliminated entirely, for men, women, or those in any other category. In fact, the whole selective service organization should be eliminated. We have repeatedly been told that a volunteer army, i.e. military service, is sufficient in the USA because its current military is doing well with the supply caused by enlistments.

Requiring women as well as men to register for the draft would be downright insulting to women. They have continued to be treated and regarded as lesser beings in spite of alleged "women's lib". They still receive less pay than men in comparable jobs if they are given such jobs. They are criticized if they have chosen to be "stay-at-home moms" rather than going to work – how often do you hear a man who has chosen a similar role be seen as not doing what a man's responsibility is? Being "liberated" has been taken as getting women to be just like men – even in such ways as making their jeans have fly fronts, like a man's; neither necessary nor as comfortable for many women as side-fastened ones. Adding women to draft registration just pulls them down again to be "equal to" men. They, too, can enlist if they want to and hopefully get jobs in the services also at least equal to men's. And adding individuals who perform certain kinds of work that are considered essential in war implies that they are not essential to those who serve the rest of us and that war is more essential than keeping the USA peaceful..

It is patriotic to want there to be no draft registration. Requiring registration for a potential draft implies that the USA is not just willing but expects to go to war. Citizens should be able to support their country's adherence to principals that never approve attacking another country. Many of the current recruits enlisted simply because they could not get a job, not because they wanted to join an army. If this country had really been attacked and was in real danger there would be quantities of spontaneous enlistments.

It is essential for you to consider all the implications of a regulation for "voluntary national service". First, it should not be called "voluntary" when it is required by a government regulation. It is important that people know that there could be a requirement for national service. Many people who oppose war or the ideas of conscription don't realize what such a requirement could mean. They may think that national service is a term that would mean work in some government agency or office rather than in the military. Or that it would require some of the kinds of work that are needed for the country as a whole -- like rebuilding the bridges that had been done under FDR. Maybe they don't realize that it could include actions that are constantly being done voluntarily for others in the USA. That would be insulting as it would indicate that citizens whose work is needed for the country are needed more for the military than for the rest of us; that we are lower class.

What needs to be done in a compulsory national service:

– Specify for how long in one's age, or during what specific ages, one is liable to do their service.

“Open-ended” leaves everyone free from doing anything at all considered to be national service by simply doing nothing, because the requirement is just that they must do something during their life.

What is the age at which the requirement begins? In this computerized age, it should be possible to record everyone when they are born, basically register them, and then track them until they reached the age / date when you have decided when it be possible, or best, for an individual to begin doing “service”.

Must it be done between two specific ages (i.e., between 9 & 20 years old)?

Should there be a cutoff age after which one is no longer required to do any service?

Are there individuals who should be exempted from the requirement because of physical or mental handicap? Are there criteria for them?

Who makes those decisions?

What are the criteria for those who fill the various personnel positions? Who makes the decisions and the job descriptions for hiring personnel and provides for their continuing supervision and support?

– Should there be registration for national service, just like draft registration as it now exists? To evaluate existing and suggested regulations regarding that question and making a report on and recommending government action concerning them is at the core of the commission's assignment.

Need to organize a system to replace the current Selective Service system for national service registration, as there is for the present draft registration and potential draft.

Need one central space with personnel to keep complete files; records; and information on all residents, what service they are in the process of doing and how much of their required service had been completed, and how much more they had to do.

Need to make and maintain a list of what approved service actions there are and how much each of these would count towards completion of a required service. (For example, at one meeting or your commission a person giving testimony reported that she had had a boy scout troop. Is this function approved as a national service? Must it be done more than once or, if a number of times, how many?) What ratings would appointed or elected individuals for local, state, or national work be given? Who would research potential activities and give each of them value to be included on the list?

Need to create draft boards to receive, track, and keep records of names and addresses of those been deemed eligible for service, and make sure that recruits are fulfilling the requirements for one of their age. They must have some means of enforcing the regulation.

Who would select and monitor these boards?

– Evaluate universal service. What qualifies as such? Should each be rated accordingly by amount of time needed; by numbers of people who are helped; by type of work done? Must decide on the value of a service and get together a list of services with the value of each one. When a person registers to do a specific service, the person signing them in must be able to have something to refer to and make a decision as to its value and how it meets the requirement. For how long, or for how many times, does it take to fulfill each specific requirement?

A list, with descriptions, must be made of approved services. Who would collect all these descriptions? Who would select and monitor the boards with this responsibility? Beyond existence of this list, would there need to be a mechanism for informing everyone what their options for service are before they register for one? After the early, required registration, when should a choice be recorded? (This relates to the first paragraph of these observations of the proposal for a national service.)

Marguerite Hasbrouck  
324 Washington Street  
Apt 206  
Wellesley Hills  
Massachusetts  
02481

*Marguerite Hasbrouck*

781-235-2084  
mugs@hasbrouck.org

*also sent by email*

## War Tax Resistance as a Life Transforming Way (Relationships)

Eleanor and I began our married life on August 30, 1958 with a commitment to God, each other, and our human community. It was an experience of serendipity because it provided an answer to my questions about the direction of my future. It is no secret that our decisions had been impacted by our readiness to practice the discipleship of peace as demonstrated in the life and ministry of Jesus. Like Jane Fonda we were “utterly fascinated by this man.”

I write these reflections as both of us enter the 8<sup>th</sup> decade of our lives. During this period we have responded in a variety of ways to the taxes required of citizens, especially those funds which the IRS was obligated by Congress to confiscate for war related purposes. A critical question for us was: “Why should the C.O. to war refuse service in the military if he or she does not refuse to pay those taxes?”

Yes, I was a war tax resister before I entered into the marriage relationship even though it was not clear how we could implement this goal in the years to come. Considering her strengths and my biases I felt that the two of us had the potential of being compatible partners for a life-long marriage. We knew that we were living in a prosperous society which did not always value persons who challenged the way in which most citizens expressed their loyalties and patriotism. Yet we were confident that our calling included service to others. And so we accepted an assignment overseas among the people of Indonesia together with the Mennonite Central Committee. It turned out to be an adventure which shaped us profoundly.

After partnering nearly seven years with people of other cultures we were even more firmly committed to making a difference in North America. In the preface to my first book, *What Belongs to Caesar?* I suggested that it was William Warren Sweet’s book, *The Story of Religion in America*, that first alerted me “to the idea that paying taxes designated for war might be inconsistent with the demands of Christian discipleship.” It happened rather unexpectedly while we were students in Chicago attending Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Upon further reflection my memory suggests that the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, was a pivotal event for me. Even as an 8-year-old I sensed that this was not an ordinary event. That afternoon I walked out on the farm trying to imagine what this ‘happening’ would mean for people on our planet and how it could possibly impact my own life. Guidance came from my parental home and church community along with the ever challenging newsletter, *The Peacemaker*, from Ohio (begun in 1948). A young man from Kansas, Austin Regier, confronted me with a clear witness. He saw no significant difference between being a conscientious objector to war and refusing to pay military taxes. The logic of that argument has continued to be convincing to this day. I also acknowledge that during my college years, Bennie Barga (business professor) planted more seeds of concern about the propriety of paying for war. With these significant

influences I readily agree with Nels Ferre who claimed that truth in his book, *The Third Conversion Never Fails*.

During our first year of marriage we drafted a letter to the "Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and Secretary for Tax Legislation" expressing our limited cooperation with the government's taxation of citizens. Dated March 30, 1960, it was printed in our denominational magazine (*The Mennonite*, June 9, 1959) along with a cartoon by Robert Regier. It was also circulated among immediate relatives who were basically sympathetic but not very encouraging. Lacking support or conviction (or both), we reluctantly paid the income tax for the year 1958.

It felt good to serve the people of Indonesia for seven years (1960 to 1967). There were no tax obligations for us because we were on a maintenance support arrangement. Still I felt a need to return to N. America so that we could make a witness for nonviolent love in a society that was heavily involved in military exploitation of the Vietnamese people. During October of 1965 we experienced the attempted coup in Indonesia which resulted in an estimated half million deaths or more. That event could have been a big risk for our family of five persons, but it wasn't. So why does every government justify and promote this "unqualified obedience to governmental demands"?

After a year of additional seminary training in Elkhart, Eleanor and I accepted a pastoral assignment in Mountain Lake, MN. for three years. This proved to be a much greater risk because of my limited pastoral skills. Also, not enough members of the congregation were willing to extend the contract to a staff person who was radical enough to challenge prevailing assumptions in our society. I devoted time to an exploration of biblical texts which have been misused to justify obedience to one's government irrespective of what such a government might require militarily. Even though both pastors refused to voluntarily pay the federal excise tax on telephone service, one family in the congregation chose to pay the tax for us despite our objections! (The 'excise tax' was often diverted to the UNICEF Children's Fund or other alternative funds).

Even though we were offered another assignment by a congregation in Minneapolis, MN. who knew about our predicament, this lack of support did negatively impact our relationship to each other. Eleanor was a loyal partner to me but there was a measure of withdrawal due to the disappointment and my failure to perform adequately. She was sympathetic to my goals but challenged the assumption that I should always have the last word. Because of our three children as dependents and the benefit of a housing allowance we were free of tax penalties in Mt. Lake. This changed with our relocation to the Twin Cities where the church office and parsonage were on the same telephone number. Yet the Church Council was willing to support our telephone tax protest for those three years. We filed taxes and protested annually.

After relocating to Newton, KS. in 1974 we purchased a house where we have lived for the past 40 years. Despite my heavy focus on social concerns and tax issues we have generally found options which relieved the tension of not paying income taxes. The

most effective of these was to consolidate our benevolent giving and medical expenses within one of two years. This provided the advantage of getting more mileage out of tax benefits. Following our move to Kansas, Eleanor and I had a dual position as personnel coordinators for our Commission on Home Ministries. Clerical work together with interviewing volunteers was gratifying for both of us. During the 70's and 80's Eleanor taught piano and organ lessons while I insulated homes and worked for a printing company. For seven years I did pastoral visitation on a part-time basis. This eventually developed into a satisfying vocation with the local HUD housing project (62 units & 17 years at "Wheatland Homes.") The Board invited me to be the executive director knowing full well that we objected to paying military taxes. For 1981 and subsequent years we chose the strategy of paying only that portion of the Federal tax which was not designated for the Pentagon or military purposes. When the IRS placed a lien on our house the Board of Directors kindly wrote a letter of support to the IRS. (Robert Hull advised us to direct letters to our congressional representatives rather than to the IRS). During the Reagan years James Klassen and I requested refunds from the IRS and actually received them! It was a pleasant surprise to receive those checks and channel them to support social agencies!

Despite our shared values and mutual peace concerns it became evident that our marriage relationship was 'growing apart' and becoming less intimate. She recently told me that I was a fanatic and could no longer reciprocate my affirmations of her loyal partnership. So there is a kind of stability which remains but it is not what it once was. Some of it is a reflection of differing attitudes about what the government does or does not do for its citizens. Ever since World War II I have tended to be more skeptical of the nation's daily operations while she continues to be more optimistic about the good functions like roads, schools, and health programs. Her father, Norman Wismer, was energetic about his involvement with the Fellowship of Reconciliation in PA, often traveling to Philadelphia and having contacts with persons like Bayard Rustin. Eleanor had two brothers, one of whom was drafted into the U.S. army in Europe. Eleanor and her youngest sister, Nancy Hilty, both live in this Bluestem community for the past four years. They have a mutually fond appreciation for each other.

To come to the decision to embark on a journey through life with another person, requires an enormous amount of courage. "An American writer, Joseph Sittler, has said, "The heart of marriage is a promise. On the face of it it's a crazy promise. Two people, who have only a partial understanding of one another, stand up and make this bizarre statement that they're going to cherish and care for one another for a lifetime . . . .Marriage is a mutual acceptance of a crazy challenge to fulfill the seemingly impossible. A commitment like that takes guts.'" (John H. Neufeld, *The Story That Shapes Us*, pp 110-111).

Being in the peacemaking business has been most rewarding. It has provided us with terrific literature and the opportunity to increase our sensitivity to the needs of people around the globe. We have been given the gift of compassion. We meet and work

with the most beautiful people on the planet, like Cornelia Lehn. The Bromleys of Ohio are proof that the 'small people' can successfully confront the IRS. We should not fear it. A.J. Muste, our winsome peace advocate, noted that "The Kingdoms of the world seem able to dominate and destroy everything; but they are themselves dominated and destroyed by their own lust for power." We backed into a simple lifestyle. At times the

fellowship and camaraderie of WTR meetings surpassed that of the congregation to which we belong (and we certainly considered our congregation to be peace minded). New understandings come to us to refresh our commitment to love and justice.. Bill Keeney and Bob Hull observed that "Only as people refuse the war tax will Congress take seriously the concerns of conscientious citizens." As Wally Nelson asked, "What could be more positive than refusing to kill people?" The other day I read from Wendell Berry's *The Hidden Wound* in which he makes the astute observation that we in America have "moral discomfort" because we are confused about religious freedom and political power. "And so beneath the public advocacy of the separation of church and state, . . .we see working a mute anxiety to suppress . . . For separation of church and state, then, read separation of morality and state." (p. 15) How profound is that? It makes me want to increase my efforts to encourage more accountability for our citizen's actions.

There are remarkable pioneers for peace. Recently I became aware of the *Nonviolent Soldier of Islam: Badshah Khan, A Man to Match His Mountains*. His living presence on the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan (Pushtunistan) led to the formation of an amazing movement away from blood revenge to the "Servants of God." Who would have guessed such a possibility in Asia during and following World War I? Yet, Badshah Khan, countered military recruitment with gospel nonviolence, bringing "the collective conscience to life" among his people. Like Jeremiah, we need to unmask the illusions of power by being servants of hope among the vulnerable and wounded.

Do you have hope for the future?  
 Someone asked Robert Frost, toward the end.  
 Yes, and even for the past, he replied,  
*that it will turn out to have been all right*  
 for *what it was*, something we can accept,  
 mistakes made by the selves we had to be,  
 not able to be, perhaps, what we wished,  
 or what looking back half the time it seems  
 we could easily have been, or ought . . .  
 The future, yes, and even for the past,  
 that it will become something we can bear.  
 And I too, and my children, so I hope,  
 will recall as not too heavy the tug  
 of those albatrosses I sadly placed  
 upon their tender necks. *Hope for the past*,  
 yes, old Frost, your words provide that courage,

and it brings strange peace that itself passes  
 into past, easier to bear because  
 you said it, rather casually, as snow  
 went on falling in Vermont years ago. (poem by David Ray from *Sam's Book*,  
 Wesleyan University Press, 1987)

Eleanor and I can confirm that since the year 2012 we were successful in living below the government taxable level. In fact that year we were to receive a refund totaling \$228.

Knowing that the NWTRCC Committee which produces pamphlet # 8 needs our stories of experience, we have made an effort to be somewhat transparent. Are we candid enough? Probably not. If Eleanor's perspective were more explicit in my account of the marital conflict there would be more focus on my inabilities as well as my compulsive habit of collecting too much. I was trained to be frugal before I left the parental home. And I thought I was generous compared to some of my stingy cousins! Eleanor knows that few couples are able to be in full agreement on the details of how to protest one's complicity in war. It is a temptation to be too controlling of the other spouse. On the other hand, I understand that no one person alone can make the change happen. If I didn't feel my family responsibilities so keenly I would be inclined to live more frugally and accept the consequences of prison. This would enable one to disassociate oneself more completely and clearly from the military-industrial complex.

There are many ways to resist the efforts of the Pentagon in the U.S. tax system. We ask that you let us know if any of our experiences may be relevant to your task. We would appreciate seeing how our reflections or that of others might be used if that should happen.

Postscript of March 2, 2013: Eleanor and I often felt that there was a significant bonding of our relationship when we recognized that we had come from parallel roots in Alsace out of Swiss and Anabaptist histories. However, our forebears came to N. America via two distinct migrations – one in 1709 by way of the Carolinas and Pennsylvania, the other in 1874 by way of the Great Plains. Was it providential or coincidental that we should have this common heritage from the past?

Beyond that we come from two congregations states and miles apart that were tied together for us by an act of mutual aid and by the ministry of a person. Russell Mast was the one who served both locations during our growing-up years. Eleanor frequently speaks about how she at eleven years took copious notes while listening to him preach at Deep Run West (located near Bedminster, PA). As a teenager who was eager to make sense out of life's mysteries I listened intently to him at the Salem-Zion (North) Church near Freeman, S.D. He was known to spend an hour for every minute that he spoke to the congregation. His ministry was crucial in correcting my errors in character. So, this is one servant of the church who brought our strands of hope together in a meaningful

way. Perhaps our individual transformations matured us enough to undertake our faith disciplines for our 'life together" these 60 years.

Parenthetically, I might add a comment about my 'Uncle Dan' (known by most citizens as "Bicycle Dan"). He was the second youngest of 11 siblings and remained a bachelor all his life. During WWI he was drafted into the Army. My father spent considerable energy attempting to keep him out by asking for a farm exemption. It was not successfu. My father didn't talk much about that experience but perhaps we as children were too reluctant to ask questions. Uncle Dan spent several months as a non-combatant in the mess hall at Fort Reilly, Kanas, consoling himself that he was "feeding people inseed of killing them." My uncle was clearly different.

Joel Schwader, a correspondent for the *South Dakota Magazine* (Sept.-Oct., 2000, page 53 reported that "He never rose in anger to those who made fun of him. All the years he stood on the corner smiling robbed them of their unconcern. He may have been crazy. But Dan Kaufman . . . taught the town of Freeman, SD, the meaning of commpassion."

Parenthetically, when Russell Mast arrived in the East Freeman community approximately 75% of the young men in the North Church were being drafted into the military. By God's grace through significant mid-week Bible studies and prophetic preaching that trend was reversed within two or three years. The congregation then had 75% entering into Civilian Public Service as an alternative to militarism. In my experience it was a most encouraging "God-send."

– Donald D. Kaufman (Sept. 6, 2018). Eleanor Wismer's & Don's life sketch.

– 30 – (replaces 2013 ms.)

Sent at the U.S. Government's request for alternatives to war and military service. Please examine carefully.  
 — Donald D. Kaufman

December 17, 2019

Dear National Commission on Military,

I am writing to you to express that the DRAFT should not be re-instated.

Our country should not be sending more of our men and women into combat ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> get injured or killed.

We have learned since the Viet Nam War that these wars have been based on false information and we don't "WIN" them.

What our country needs are more men and women to be diplomats, they can help us to not be in wars.

Sincerely,  
Verna Silvia

Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A.  
Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association  
23 Greens Shade, San Antonio, Texas 78216  
Phone: 210-545-5200 - email: [edominguez36@gmail.com](mailto:edominguez36@gmail.com)

Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck:

February 3, 2019

I am very thankful and pleased with the initiative and the work of the Commission on Military, National and Public Service. We have the hope of giving our youth the opportunity to provide public service to our country and strengthen our democracy.

As you well know, not all our youth have the same opportunities growing up. Many of them were born into poverty, dysfunctional families and others without good health care or good chances to learn. The Military Services have provided great training and opportunities for our youth over the years.

Mandatory Public Service will attract many idealistic youngsters with good mental and emotional preparation, as well many others with emotional scars and significant academic and social deficits. Those scars and deficits become impediments to functioning under the stresses of daily interactions and demands. For those reasons we should provide the candidates for public service a training program, with some of the lessons learned from the military.

I am enclosing my thoughts for a training program for the candidates to public service. I am a believer that public service will be especially good for those young Americans.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D.

## **A NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FOR POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." President John F. Kennedy**

There is a National recognition that we must help our youth get more engaged with our civil society for their own sake as well as that of our society and their future. Their voter participation rates are lower in younger citizens. From 1972 to 2012, citizens 18-29 years old turned out at a rate 15 to 20 points lower than citizens 30 years and older. Why?

**What are some of the elements of this question?**

Perhaps psychological problems are a factor. In 1976, Rutter reported that "almost one-half of the adolescents interviewed acknowledged having considerable misery and anguish". In 1982 Robbins et al. "reported a diagnosis of major depressive disorder in 28% of the adolescents they screened". "Strober et al. (1981) found a prevalence rate of 18.7%". Depression and suicide keeps soaring. In 2016 the CDC reported 5723 suicides in the age group 15-24. "Youth suicide also has increased because of an increased use of firearms". From the 1970s to the early 1990s, the homicide rate for teens (ages 15 to 19) more than doubled, from 8 per 100,000 in 1970 to a peak of 20 per 100,000 in 1993. The rate declined steeply during the late 1990s, then leveled off at around 9 deaths per 100,000 from 2000 to 2004. The rate of homicides among this age group then increased, reaching 11 per 100,000 in 2006, before falling to 7 per 100,000 in 2014, the lowest rate on record. However, rates have increased again over the last few years, rising to 9 per 100,000 in 2016.

Substance abuse continues to soar. The opioid epidemic is getting worse by the day, with increasing mortalities. With increasing legalization of marijuana, we are running the risk of many teenagers becoming serious chronic cannabis drug abusers. This will have a negative effect on their developing brain. Nearly 150,000 college students develop some type of alcohol-related health problem every year. The binge-drinking rate among college students

has hovered above 40 percent for two decades, and signs are that partying is getting even harder.

During the freshman year of college, 15% of women are raped while incapacitated from alcohol or drugs. It's hard to imagine a more sobering statistic. Separation anxiety from leaving home, leads many teenagers to sexual promiscuity as well as sexual violence.

According to the CDC, obesity in our young population is increasing at an alarming rate, with all the negative medical, social and psychological consequences.

Learning disabilities, such as Dyslexia, is found in 3-7% of the population; however, about 20% of the population have some degree of symptoms.

Another factor impacting post high school teens might be the lack of boundaries, clear structures, and supervision that get many of them in more trouble that they can handle, especially when they lack the necessary competencies to master the challenges facing them.

Many of the problems mentioned above may not have been identified in their schools, or if they were identified, they were not corrected due to the lack of school resources. All of these issues and many others are all good grounds to move forward to find a way to develop a Mandatory National Public Service Program after high school. These issues can be identified and corrective processes can then be initiated. It could give the teenagers an opportunity to develop new masteries and ability to adapt with a sense of new self-confidence that will go a long way to initiate a process of self-recovery.

Public concern with all these youth problems may create a sense of urgency for a Public National Service Program. It is of interest to know that a CNN survey done on 1/26/2019 by Mr. Smerconish showed that people were 71% in favor of such a National Public Service Program. The teenagers' interest in such a program would increase with the possibility of earning wages during that year of service.

## **After leaving their homes, why are the teens so vulnerable?**

Leaving the nest has always been stressful and dangerous for every living animal. You can observe the struggles of birds leaving the nest for the first time. They practice flapping their wings over and over until they get the courage to jump into the empty space. Unfortunately, some of them will fail to master their first flight and become prey to predators.

Separation anxiety is a phenomenon also found in animals and observed by many mothers. You can see how some dogs that cannot tolerate to be away from their masters will have significant reactions such as: severe crying, barking and damaging furniture.

In children, separation anxiety disorders may lead later on to over anxious disorders or avoidance disorders of adolescence. All these clinical syndromes leave the teenagers handicapped socially and psychologically with low self-esteem and many fears to venture into any new undertakings.

Other teenagers are raised in families that over indulge them. They grow up with a sense that the world and every person will continue giving them what they want. When they don't get it, they will get very angry, and being narcissistic as they are, they will do anything to get what they had demanded. They do not feel they need to struggle to get their way. Somebody will do it for them.

Many teenagers are ill prepared to face the world by themselves away from home without full parental support. And as they fail, they may join with bad people (predators) that may get them in worse troubles. As they become consumed with their insecurities and fears, they may even cling to "rescuers" and fall into cults.

The main psychological issues restraining adolescents from becoming successful adults and fully participative in our Civil Society are the lack of a commitment to a dream, and a pervasive sense of hopelessness based on their own personal experiences. They live in the present, unable to see a future, lacking a trust in human connections.

Can the experiences in a well-run National Public Service Program change the outlook of those teenagers? I think so, because deep down teenagers are resilient, idealistic, curious and hungry for new experiences and healthier relationships. After all, Public Service is good Medicine for the Soul.

**Alternatives for Public Service available for post high school graduates:**

AmeriCorps - Youth Build - City Year

Teach Corps for America - Peace Corps

**A National Public Service Program to train teens for public service**

- 1) Three months of Federal modified "boot camp" with emphasis on improving health, fitness and education.
  - a) The expectations during these 3 months will be to identify health, educational and competency problems and correct them as much as possible.
  - b) Improve the fitness of each trainee.
  - c) Improve and establish healthy routines and discipline.
  - d) Improve verbal communication with frequent small mixed groups and individual presentations. Group discussions could include national and international issues. Conversations should also include experiences with the program and personal dreams they have or should have for their future.
  - e) Every one should know how to swim, play chess and learn meditation and relaxation techniques. Every one should also participate in at least one team sport.
  - f) Trainees with learning deficits will be provided with an intensive remediation program.

- g) Trainees that do well can be provided with the opportunity to learn new languages.
  - h) All trainees will learn basic emergency first aid.
  - l) Smart phones, tablets and personal TV will not be allowed, to discourage isolation and promote human interaction and social skills.
  - j) By teaching them good manners, good habits, and basic social etiquette norms, teens will be more successful in their public service assignment and in their future.
  - k) Religious services will be available.
  - l) No home visits during these 3 months. Parents and siblings may have short visits once a month on Sundays.
- 2) Nine months internships in Federal or State Agencies or qualified Not for Profit Organization or Tribal Government
- a) The agencies will have to meet national employment criteria with clear supervision guidelines for the candidates, as well as pay them the national wage.
  - b) The trainees can apply to any agency of their choosing, but to be accepted, they will have to meet the standards of that facility, as well as available openings.
  - c) If the trainees fail to fulfill their contract with the agency, they will have to go back to an available "boot camp" for additional retraining.
- 3) Colleges that can demonstrate that their curriculum meets the standards of the Mandatory one Year of Public Service will fulfill the requirements of the National Public Service Program.
- a) Students in Colleges that are not participating in the Mandatory Public Service Programs and doing well

academically and socially have the option of a direct one year public service after graduation.

- b) College students that violate the college ethical conduct, or show continuous academic failures, will be referred to the first "boot camp" available in a Public Service Training Facility.
- c) College students graduating with student loans will be given the opportunity to have their loans forgiven for working in public service careers for several years.

**References:**

Textbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Edited by Jerry M. Wiener, M.D.

Helping Teenagers Become Successful and Responsible Adults  
by Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D., D.F.A.P.A. and  
Lizabeth Craig, R.N., B.S.Ed

# SOS America Essential Elements

Commission Members and Staff: My name is Harold Woods, Senior Director of SOS America (Service over Self). [www.sosamerica.org](http://www.sosamerica.org)  
I am grateful for the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you.

As a retired businessman concerned about the need for continuing renewal of our country, I commend the SOS America initiative to you as part, hopefully, a big part, of the solution you are charged to provide.

General John Borling, our Chairman, has testified before you in Washington, but I take this opportunity to emphasize that the military is the most respected institution in the nation, yet only a small percentage of our young men and women qualify physically and mentally for the All Volunteer Force. We most assuredly need to expand the opportunity for military service.

SOS America advocate an affordable, one year, small unit, military experience. Imagine, mixing geography, backgrounds and ages 18-26 in that unit of young people whose physical and mental requirements would be based on the ability to take care of themselves versus the strenuous requirements for the All Volunteer Force. They would train and serve in platoons of 30, companies of 100, and respond, on demand, to the needs of the services, guard and reserve, federal and state agencies.

Shared values and experiences; the affirming reality that 'They served' - this is their earned benefit and the benefits to our nation. It's all about nation building in America. I commend to your all-- [www.sosamerica.org](http://www.sosamerica.org)  
Service over Self. Thank You

CUSHMAN D. ANTHONY  
19 BLUEBERRY COVE  
YARMOUTH, ME 04096  
[CUSH@MAINE.RR.COM](mailto:CUSH@MAINE.RR.COM)  
(207) 847-0632

March 4, 2019

National Commission of Military and National Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Friends,

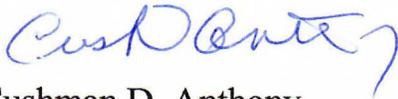
I am a former officer in the Naval Reserve, as well as a retired attorney.

You ask, is the military draft still a necessary component of U.S. National Security. The clear answer is no. We have not used the draft for that purpose for decades now, and it is useless for making us more secure. Any warfare in this era would be unable to use drafted manpower in any useful way, according to all the experts that I have read. It has no inherent value.

Moreover, some young men find it offensive and against their conscience to register for the draft. Under current law, that decision has serious consequences, especially the loss of access to government service or job training programs or student financial aid. That does nobody any good at all, and skews the enrollment in all of those programs. That is contrary to the public interest, it seems to me.

The military draft has become an anachronism, as well as a huge waste of tax dollars. Get rid of it, please. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Cushman D. Anthony

5351 37th Street North  
Arlington, VA 22207  
February 27, 2019

Honorable Joseph J. Heck, MD, Chairman  
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Dr. Heck,

Let me, as a citizen who began 31 years of national service as an Army private and ended as the American ambassador to Somalia, offer you my views.

I have just read with interest the Commission's interim report of January 23, 2019. I regret not having offered my views to the Commission before this, but until the February 26 article in the *Washington Post* I was frankly unaware that the Commission existed.

I understand that the Commission is bound by legislation to consider in the first instance reform of the *military* selective service process [P.L. 114-328, Sec. 555(c)(1)].

We will never, unless we must in the future confront some new world war, resume the military draft, given our loss in Vietnam of over fifty thousand men, almost a third of them draftees. But we will profit by having a citizenry that has served our country.

I urge the Commission to propose a system of universal, compulsory national service of at least one year for all young Americans, male and female, when they finish high school or reach 18, except for those seriously disabled. A lottery would assign an individual to, say, a National Forest or National Park, a hospital or hospice, a school, or some other approved organization. Individuals could *volunteer* for military service.

I have discussed this idea with over a dozen older men who, like me, served in the military when service was compulsory. Without exception they agree that a *universal and compulsory system with an option to volunteer to do service in the military would be an excellent thing.* My friends and I did not like being Army privates, but we see it in retrospect as valuable experience that heightened our devotion to our country. Today, 18- year-olds have the vote, and a number of them will no doubt tell their elected representatives they oppose a compulsory system. Wise leadership—and good use of the bully pulpit—will be required to put it through.

Sincerely,



Peter Bridges  
American Ambassador, retired

Col. (Ret) Charles R. Baker  
5552 107<sup>th</sup> Terrace East  
Parrish, FL 34219  
[Cbaker611@aol.com](mailto:Cbaker611@aol.com) 678-580-9345

Dr. Jill A. Rough  
National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Dr. Rough:

I served as a sub-committee head in the Department of the Army's ***Women in the Army Study of 1978***. It had become apparent that women would be needed to make up for a 300,000 shortfall of eligible males in the enlistment age groups.

In the four sub-committees, I was the only male officer from a combat branch – Infantry. I was a Lt. Col., a graduate of West Point, and an infantry officer who had been a company commander and battalion operations officer in 1968 within the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, to include the Battles for Hue during Tet 68, Khe Sahn and A Shau Valley. Our battalion was 60 – 70% draftees, most of whom performed magnificently. My decorations included two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart.

The Committee Head and two of the sub-committee heads were female officers. The four sub-committee teams travelled to units around the world and surveyed personnel from all ranks. The key findings concerned women's comparative upper-body strength, and concern by men about their leadership traits with respect to leading men. We briefed the DCSPER of the Army in detail.

Although I personally felt at that time that a woman should be able to serve in any type of unit, the Committee Chief and the DCSPER concluded that the time was not right to suggest a woman be a rifleman, or a tank crewman. The draft had been stopped only 5 years earlier. Being the best writer in the group, I was tasked to draft the language for the Congressional Record, establishing women's exclusion from service in infantry, armored and direct support artillery battalions. This guideline stood for almost 40 years. Since that time women have proved themselves in many combatant situations, and it is a new day.

Having said all this, I would point out that a woman in an infantry squad or a special ops team, even though she can meet the physical requirements, will still be on tenuous ground until she proves herself in a tough situation. The last thing these direct combat units will need is a woman who does not volunteer to be there. So, should women be included in the draft?

Absolutely. Should drafted women be sent to infantry, armored, and cavalry battalions? Only if they volunteer and can meet the physical requirements.

With respect to your commission, of special interest to me is articulating the many reasons why young people should start the first year or two of their adult lives in military or service organizations. Most will gain levels of maturity, self-discipline, interpersonal skills, and physical health that are not otherwise available in today's culture. Ceasing the draft in 1973 was a mistake, born of the disastrous outcome of Vietnam, and solidified with the end of the Cold War. To the extent the national government intends to reinstate a properly managed draft in the future, we need to start selling the benefits now. These efforts need to target parents as well as their young people.

Sincerely,

 2/27/19  
Charles R. Baker

Colonel, USA (Ret)

**A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

6189 170th St. N  
Hawley, MN 56549  
April 18, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft.

First, to be clear, we realize that government is ordained by God (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our government as Christ taught us (Matthew 22.21), "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So we pay taxes & obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's". We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage.

We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass.

However, woman's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts, (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a

strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society.

Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women.

Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator.

We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between “giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's” and “giving to God the things that are God's”. We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services.

Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Waldner".

Hutterian Brethren

Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2830 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029, Box #63

Arlington Va, 22202

Attn: RIFI COMMENT - Docket # 05-2018-01

Dear Commissioners:

We find the opportunity to respond to the Commission's request for public input on the matter of Military, National and Public Service an important moment. Our concern for the people of our country and the people of the world means this opportunity is not taken lightly. Our work as a group is dedicated to those without a voice; the oppressed, marginalized and endangered, wherever they may live.

We members of the Chicago Anti-War Coalition (CAWC) condemn the US Government covert/overt wars against numerous countries throughout the world. We support resistance to mandatory service, conscription, draft or any forced service to the Military, Government and associated networks, whether through individual "conscientious objection" or the "conscientious objection" of the will of the people. The abdication by Congress of its role to represent the people in the declaration of war, through the AUMF and resulting expansion of Executive power has irreparably violated the Rule of Law and the foundation of Democracy.

War is no longer understood by the people of the United States or people of the entire World as a defensive entity to maintain National Security. The world's people rightly understand, as did Smedley Butler, a US Marine Corps General and winner of two Medals of Honor who wrote in his book, War is a Racket (1935): "To summarize: Three steps must be taken to smash the war racket: We must take the profit out of war...We must permit the youth of the land who would bear arms to decide whether or not there should be war...We must limit our military forces to home defense purposes" (p 36,37). In 1961, President Eisenhower reminded us of the perils of the "Military Industrial Complex" in his Farewell Address (January, 1961).

We now have further evidence that **War is NOT the answer**....it never has been...it is the problem. Our greatest defensive need is the rescue of our threatened planet. We urgently need to establish a Department of Peace and Ecological Survival.

Patricia Hynes (retired professor of Environmental Health, Director of Traprock Center for Peace and Justice) presented the following declarations (climate and [capitalism.com/2015/02/08/pentagon-pollution](http://capitalism.com/2015/02/08/pentagon-pollution)):

- "-The US Military is the world's biggest and most destructive polluter. Stopping the war machine is an essential part of saving the earth.
- The US Military generates more toxic waste than the 5 largest US chemical companies combined.
- The "war on terror" included massive federal funding for secret research on the most lethal bacteria and viruses with no known cure.
- During and after the Pentagon wars, land mines and cluster bombs kill and maim while blocking agriculture in the poorest regions."
- The use of depleted uranium weapons in the Balkans and Iraq has left a long term legacy of cancer and birth defects among civilians."

We also need to include examples from history of gratuitous Military violence that cannot be defended as part of our National Security:

- The firebombing of Dresden near the end of World War II
- The My Lai Massacre in Vietnam and other atrocities in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos
  
- the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- covert/illegal bombing of Cambodia
- Guantanamo and all black sites.... use of torture....abandonment of due process, ...human rights violations.
- Drone assassinations of citizens, including American citizens, in sovereign countries in undeclared wars without due process.

Once we realign our objectives to the global mutual need for survival and the reality of mutual obligation to protect and equitably share resources, we can realistically begin to discuss the issue of "service". Service will not be to a Military/Industrial/ETC hegemony but to Global Eco-Survival. The service of an individual will not be to provide profit to the Military/Industrial/Surveillance/Financial Complex. It will benefit human survival and perhaps, evolution of Humanity.

Submitted by:

Chicago Anti-War Coalition(CAWC)

Web-site:<https://www.Chi-AnitwarCoalition.org>

E-mail: [ChicagoAntiwarCoalition@gmail.com](mailto:ChicagoAntiwarCoalition@gmail.com)

September 27, 2018

117 Northway  
Greenbelt MD 20770  
September 26, 2018

Natl. Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn: RFI Comment - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Sir or Madam;

I believe that draft registration is both unnecessary and is a form of coercion that does not belong in our free & supposedly democratic nation.

After 9-11, the military had enough volunteers that the draft was not activated. Is that not evidence that it is unnecessary?

More importantly, draft registration has been a huge burden on men who do not believe in participating in killing. Please institute an alternative path of service for conscientious objectors, if the draft has to continue.

<sup>The draft</sup> ~~It~~ certainly should not be widened to affect women.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Manjory M. Down  
Manjory M. Down

## Lois Ruth Kennel

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211 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW APT 1908 • ROCHESTER MN 55901 • 507/288 0984 • LOIS KENNEL@GMAIL.COM

October 7, 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my beliefs regarding military and other public service. I am a Mennonite from birth but write as a convinced adult about these things. I believe war is wrong and that violence will not bring peace and security—maybe short-term—in personal, national, or international arenas.

I believe in the peaceful PREVENTION of violence and war. I want to be a part of sharing developments in health, sustainable environment, non-discrimination among all people—regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity or national origin. No parties can threaten each other for security and peace to be achieved.

Some concerns with regard to Selective Service (draft) And US Military Service:

- 1) The law regarding all males of draft-age to register should be eliminated.
- 2) The proposal that females of draft age should register should be eliminated.
- 3) Public services and social service benefits should not be based upon state, local, or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service.
- 4) There should be a clear and easy process for a person whose moral conscience requires them to object to participation in the military, to indicate the same if the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated.

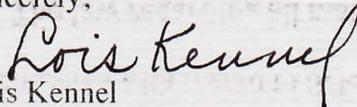
I strongly support major reductions in military funding and aggressive international policies. This could allow for sharing peaceful technologies, promoting international programs of equality in education and economic opportunities, access to public health, clean water and air, safe foods, and environmental protection and preservation. And equal opportunities and assets must be directed toward domestic needs/programs, which are many.

Regarding Non-Military Public Service:

Humans thrive on serving others and the environment. This should be encouraged by programs and funding. All could be done non-violently, with respect for life and peace.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments and concerns to the Commission.

Sincerely,



Lois Kennel  
loiskennel@gmail.com

1001 E. Oregon Rd  
Lititz, PA 17543  
Sept. 28, 2018

National Comm. on Military, National and Public Service  
Attn: RFI Comment - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Dr.  
Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA, 22202

To those responsible for Selective Service Registration:

As an 86 year old male, I am not personally affected by Selective Service Registration. But I speak in behalf of my grandchildren and other youth who presently are required to register with Selective Service.

- 1) I do not believe the military draft is a necessary component of U.S. national security. Therefore, mandatory registration should be a moot issue and discontinued.
- 2) If Selective Service registration is maintained, those who are conscientiously opposed to war, should have provision to register as Conscientious Objectors and thus be in compliance with the law.

Sincerely,

  
Charles B. Longenecker

20904 Shakespeare Drive  
Germantown, MD 20876

2018-09-16

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box No. 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Concerning RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01

It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone. Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire and making the war mongers and bankers rich and powerful.

Is there any means by which any number of individuals can delegate to someone else the moral right to do something which none of the individuals have the moral right to do themselves? Where do you or I get the right to force a person to register for the draft, how can we delegate a right we do not have? Where does the government get this power we the people do not have?

Do those who wield political power have the moral right to do things which other people do not have the moral right to do? If so, from whom and how did they acquire such a right? Does this power come from the barrel of a gun?

Is there any process (e.g., constitutions, elections, legislation) by which human beings can transform an immoral act into a moral act? Is the constitution magical? Are elections magical? Are the opinions, aka legislation, of some human beings known as politicians divine?

When law-makers and law-enforcers use coercion and force in the name of law and government, do they bear the same responsibility for their actions that anyone else would who did the same thing on his own? Can you or I draft a person to cut our grass or pick our cotton? How is it wrong for us to use coercion and force but not for the law-makers and law-enforcers?

When there is a conflict between an individual's own moral conscience, and the commands of a political authority, is the individual morally obligated to do what he personally views as wrong in order to "obey the law"? How can those who morally object to draft registration opt out?

Sincerely,

*Don Hautsch*

# npa

new progressive alliance

**NewProgs.org**

September 15, 2018

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box No. 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

The New Progressive Alliance at <http://newprogs.org/> thanks you for taking comments on this important area.

I speak as a retired US Navy commander who served on active duty and in the reserves from 1981 through 2001. Though the draft had been discontinued by the time of my service, many judges gave people found guilty of miscellaneous crimes the choice of jail or joining the armed services. I can assure you these judges did us no favors. The men became administrative burdens either because they were not educated or intelligent enough to perform their duties or because they lacked motivation to work independently and required constant supervision. Forcing people into the modern armed services creates more problems than it solves.

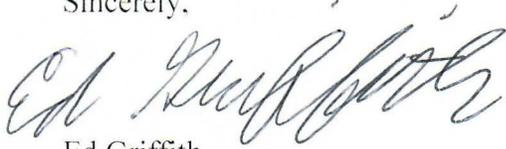
Certainly there is a legal problem in only drafting men; however drafting women as well as men is not the answer. It will have the same problem of bringing in unmotivated people which will be an administrative burden. The modern armed services need capable motivated people and cannot be babysitters for the uneducated and unmotivated.

Registering for a military draft is no longer a necessary component of U.S. national security. Right now it is not even enforced. Having a law that is not enforced or taken seriously has costs of its own.

Does service have inherent value? I think perhaps it does, but to work there must be a national consensus that the service apply to everybody. Such a consensus is severely lacking right now. There is not now even a non-military alternative available for those who are motivated and qualified.

The volunteer military has succeeded without the need for a draft. Keeping the draft for men or extending it for women would be counterproductive. Trying to impose a national requirement for service before there is a clear consensus on national service will be even more divisive for our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Griffith".

Ed Griffith

New Progressive Alliance

1000 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. #306

Longview, WA 98632-2358

United States of America

Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington St

Easton, MD 21601



August 30, 2018

The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Attn: RFI Comment Docket 05-2018-01

2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairs and Committee;

We understand the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service has received a mandate to consider continuation of Selective Service registration and that a period for public comment is open through September 2018. Third Haven Friends, a Member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, expresses the following interest:

*"As Quakers, we find no occasion for war and seek to recognize that of God in everyone. We are in favor of ending registration for the Selective Service as a process to send young citizens solely to military service for the United States of America. Additionally, we are adamant that citizens have the option to declare as Conscientious Objectors."*

Thank you for considering Third Haven Friends input of the continuation of mandatory Selective Service registration. We are a membership of 125 participants located in Easton, Maryland. We are available for further discussion and can be reached at [www.thirdhaven.org](http://www.thirdhaven.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Brian". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary B. Brian

Clerk, THMM

**A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

**MIDWAY COLONY, INC.  
BOX 582  
6049 HEALY SPRING RD  
CONRAD, MT 59425  
406-278-5278**

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft.

First, to be clear, we realize that government is ordained by God (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our government as Christ taught us (Matthew 22.21), "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So we pay taxes & obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's". We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage.

We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass.

However, woman's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts, (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a

strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society.

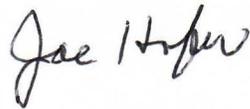
Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women.

Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator.

We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between “giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's” and “giving to God the things that are God's”. We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services.

Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Hutter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hutterian Brethren

**A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

45545 242nd St  
Madison, SD 57042  
April 18, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft.

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We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass.

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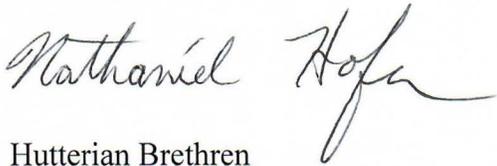
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Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathaniel Hofer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

Hutterian Brethren

Sally A. Lewis  
559 Blackwood St  
Sacramento, CA 95815

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn: RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Ste 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

April 16, 2018

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts on the current Selective Services System (SSS).

I strongly believe that the military draft is not a necessary component of national security. The current SSS has been insignificant and impractical. There are at least three advantages to a volunteer military force. First, the fine men and women in today's military are motivated to be where they are. This results in fewer disciplinary issues and more efficient training. A higher cost for training non-volunteers would be worsened by the many physically unqualified Americans. Unfit recruits may delay a training program or easily get injured and become patients of the overburdened Veteran's Administration. Finally, our military relies on smaller, mobile formations working with surveillance technology and precision guided weapons. Unlike in past wars where invasions would deploy over 2 million troops, today's operations would never require such a large number of military personnel and would possibly hinder a sensitive maneuver.

Modifications to the SSS to include national and public services, however, may be extremely beneficial. Programs such as AmeriCorp, PeaceCorps, CitizenCorps, Federal Election Volunteers, Natural Resources Conservation Earth Team Volunteers, etc., may be popular and prove to be important to U.S. national security. Once these services become better known, Americans of all ages may look forward to registering for the SSS.

If a mandatory service requirement be implemented it will be critical to not penalize the few who don't register by making it a felony punishable by a fine or a prison term or both. Service has inherent value if and only if it is provided by participants willing and able to serve. Design the SSS to be creative, positive, rewarding and fun.

The respect and funding of national and public organizations must resume immediately to begin increasing awareness and interest in these programs. Conservative politicians have demonstrated total disregard for the mission and goals of services that benefit education, public safety, health, and the environment. The eroding of the original mission and goals of the Environmental Protection Agency is just one example.

Once the non-military services component of the SSS is established, it must be carefully implemented as to not become similar to the Hitler Youth organization in Germany in which thousands of youth were indoctrinated to Nazi ideals.

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn: RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01  
April 16, 2018  
Page two

Participation in service by individuals with critical skills would increase if the jobs pay well, contain benefits (including repaying school loans), offer status, continually challenge participants, match individual talents and skills, offer career advancement, and provide a satisfying work-life balance. Involvement may increase when and if the SSS is safe for all men and women. It must make every effort to prove that it is truly free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying of all protected groups.

Sincerely,



Sally A. Lewis

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to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

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*Nathaniel Hofa*

Hutterian Brethren

Sally A. Lewis  
559 Blackwood St  
Sacramento, CA 95815

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Attn: RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Ste 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Once the non-military services component of the SSS is established, it must be carefully implemented as to not become similar to the Hitler Youth organization in Germany in which thousands of youth were indoctrinated to Nazi ideals.

Elisabeth Pisila  
18 School Street  
Chatham, NY 12037

April 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The time has come to end Selective Service Registration.

To satisfy the need for a military defense force, there will continue to be individuals wanting to take up military service as their profession.

The weapons industry must be downsized to actual defense needs, instead of selling excess weapons for profit to potential enemies.

The wars waged by the US, whether declared or undeclared, since the end of WWII, have been offensive actions. They have lead to ever greater insecurity, devastation of communities in many countries, and the lives of our own soldiers. Increasingly we lose our standing in the world as a legitimate humanitarian country.

For the government to continue making policy based on the interests of the weapons industry is suicidal. In this setting it is impossible to remain human. To be human means having a conscience. Our conscience tells us that cooperation with others is right and that injustice and violence against others is wrong. This is not naive. We have created so many enemies that radicalism became inevitable. Despite the deep complexity of the present situation, our course can and must be changed. Belief in war as a means for success is naive and criminal.

I send this letter trusting that responsible leaders will speak out, and take up action to meet reality humanly.

Respectfully,

*Elisabeth Pisila*

**Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
1825 Upland Street  
Boulder, Colorado**

8 April 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

The Boulder, Colorado Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Meeting thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide its testimony regarding the matters of military and other public service. Our testimony is grounded in our belief that war is wrong, and that violence is not the way to obtain personal, national or international peace and security among peoples and nations.

We do instead believe in the peaceful prevention of violence and war. We seek to build peace and security through pursuing and sharing developments in health, sustainable environment, equality practices, and non-discrimination among all peoples, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. Security and peace is a condition that can only be achieved and must be shared between all parties, not something imposed by military force and the use of violence. Security is achieved when all parties can share in not being threatened by the other...it is a condition that lies between all parties.

To the matters of the Selective Service (draft) and Military Service of the United States:

1. We find that the current law requiring all males of draft age to register for military service should be eliminated.
2. We also find that the proposal that females should be included in the registration for military service should likewise not occur.
3. There should be no associated denials or limitations of public service opportunities and benefits (such as access to health care, education, admission or financial aid to attend universities, drivers' licenses, and any other social service benefits) based upon state, local or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service.
4. If the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated, a clear and easy process should be established for registrants and active duty or reserves to declare that they conscientiously object to military service. This personal declaration of conscientious objection should not be tied to a particular religious belief or membership in a religious organization. The only requirement should be a personal moral conscience that violence against others is wrong.

Overall, we find that the extreme militarization of the United States is destructive, creates enemies, and is counter-productive to the goal of world peace. Violence creates more violence. We strongly support major reductions in both military funding and aggressive international policies. Acknowledging that our nation has been in a state of perpetual war for more than half a century, we advocate for sharing peaceful technologies, promoting international programs of equality in education and economic opportunities, access to public health, clean water, air and safe foods, and environmental protection and preservation. Excessive US militarization also seriously drains our resources for developing equal opportunities for health, well being, and peace, within our own nation, by misdirecting assets away from much needed domestic programs for community resilience and opportunity.

Regarding Non-Military Public Service-

We firmly believe in service to others and to the natural world in which we all live. Our lives must be about service and sharing to make us whole. There are many ways to engage in such service to others, both in our personal lives and actions, and in our vocations, be they in the public/governmental sector, or in private business or non-profit activities. All such activities must always be conducted in non-violent fashion; that is the key to being consistent with respect for life, non-violence, and peace. These must always be the foundational criteria for public service.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to Commission. We look forward to possible opportunities to provide oral testimony at listening sessions in our area.

Sincerely and in Peace,



Stan Grotegut

Clerk of Meeting

October 27, 2018

National Commission on Military, National & Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Box No. 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

**RE: RFI Comment**

Dear Sirs:

I want to give my opinion on military, national and public service.

1. I believe military and public service should be voluntary and not mandatory, and it should exclude women.
2. If the Selective Service System is retained, conscientious objectors to war should be allowed to participate in "alternative service" which is not administered by, nor connected to any military service. This was the policy for conscientious objectors during World War II and the Vietnam War.

For example: During World War II my husband (John Yoder, Jr) did alternative service by working in a mental hospital in Baltimore, MD, where he was the lone attendant over 81 violent patients for a 12 hour shift. He was working at a needy place, but not in the military where people are killed.

Thank you for allowing me to give my opinion.

Sincerely



Grace Yoder  
PO Box 75  
Davidsville, PA 15928

CUSHMAN D. ANTHONY  
19 BLUEBERRY COVE  
YARMOUTH, ME 04096  
[CUSH@MAINE.RR.COM](mailto:CUSH@MAINE.RR.COM)  
(207) 847-0632

October 19, 2018

National Commission of Military and National Service  
Attn RFI Comment on Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Friends,

Please end the requirement for registration under the Selective Service System. It fills no useful purpose any longer, and it causes many young men a great deal of pain unnecessarily.

Some young men find it offensive and against their conscience. For them not registering also causes serious losses, of access to government service or job training programs or student financial aid. And all for no good reason whatsoever. We are not using the draft any longer for any useful purpose. It is an anachronism.

It is also a huge waste of tax dollars. Get rid of it, please.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cushman D. Anthony". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Cushman D. Anthony

*Rosalind Nester Heid*

250 S. President Street #701  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4462  
410.625.9262  
[paulheid@msn.com](mailto:paulheid@msn.com)

August 30, 2018

Mr. Thomas Kilgannon, President  
Freedom Alliance  
22570 Markey Court, Suite 240  
Dulles, VA 20166

Re: Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Dear Mr. Kilgannon:

Please read my attached letter about cyber warfare. It's based on a Wall Street Journal article relating to the situation that grows more intense all the time. As someone who experienced the massive power failure in New York City during the 1970's, I know what can happen when vital infrastructure fails. Today, with our total dependence on the internet and electronic communication, a similar incident would mean a complete breakdown of our way of life.

Note that I sent a copy of my letter to the Commission on Military, National and Public Service, of which you are a representative. The efforts of this organization are impressive, and I'm in favor of national service for all. HOWEVER, in spite of my many letters to your Chairman and other members, there has been no response. I fail to comprehend how you can attempt to inspire Americans when no one will respond to queries or reply to mail. Furthermore, when I looked at your website hoping to find contact information, there was none. Except for an email address regarding jobs, nothing else was available.

I believe we are living at a time where our way of life could be destroyed in an instant due to a crippling cyber-attack. I'm no expert on security, however the article in the Wall Street Journal was alarming. I've read about other instances where vital infrastructure was taken down and apparently it's not that difficult to do. Whoever was behind those crimes remains a mystery as no names are ever divulged. It might be the Russians, the Chinese, the Israelis, or who knows the actual source.

The Selective Service could play a vital role in the event of infrastructure failure, and this has been my reason for writing the Commission. Sadly my correspondence is ignored and my ideas dismissed as unimportant. I fail to understand how you can encourage service, yet cannot respond when someone wants to come on board. A copy of my most recent letter to chairman Heck is enclosed as an example of material that's gone missing as no response was ever received by this writer.

Sincerely



Rosalind Nester Heid

Attachments

*Rosalind Nester Heid*

250 S. President Street #701  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4462  
410.625.9262  
[paulheid@msn.com](mailto:paulheid@msn.com)

**COPY**

**COPY**

August 30, 2018

Letters to the Editor  
The Wall Street Journal  
[wsj.ltrs@wsj.com](mailto:wsj.ltrs@wsj.com)

Re: America Goes on the Cyberoffensive, Opinion, August 29, 2018

To the Editor:

And so the cyber war begins! But what about people like me, the folks who depend on the massive infrastructure that could be taken down in an instant? The horrible details about Russia's weapon *Not Petya* are frightening. The public has been kept in the dark about this weaponizing of all things cyber, and it's doubtful this will change. Top secret is always top secret!

I recall the massive power failure in New York City of decades past and understand what can happen when the systems that make our lives possible fail. I consider today's culture the most vulnerable of all times. If some unknown entity were to access the power grid, our way of life would grind to a stop. Back in 1977, after 8 hours without electricity things began falling apart, today an 8-hour cyber-attack would wreak havoc on everything.

This country desperately needs a defense system to protect citizens in the event of a crippling denial of service incident. We need people trained to handle all eventualities and provide human back up when infrastructure platforms are compromised. We already have the Selective Service System and that's where I'd assign that responsibility. The organization maintains massive files of civilians who can be called in time of warfare. Now that warfare has taken on a horrifyingly new dimension. Cyber warfare is here to stay and this country should be prepared for any and all eventualities. It's time citizen details are created and trained and if needed, on call. The Selective Service System should contemplate the future of war and stop revisiting what went wrong in the Vietnam era.

Rosalind Nester Heid

Cc:

Mr. Donald M. Benton, Director of Selective Service  
Honorable Dr. David Heck, Chairman, Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
General Paul Nakasone, Commander, United States Cyber Command

-It's time you all thought about the civilians who would suffer in the event of a cyber war.

*Rosalind Ellis Heid*

250 President Street #701  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4462  
410.625.9262  
[paulheid@msn.com](mailto:paulheid@msn.com)

**COPY**

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Dr. David Heck (UNANSWERED)  
Chairman  
National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive - Suite 1000 – Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: My letter to General Paul Nakasone, United States Cyber Command

Dear Sir:

Please see attached letter to United States Cyber Command. I believe the Selective Service is missing in action when it comes to a “cyber Pearl Harbor.” Furthermore, I’m appalled the Selective Service is only interested in men if and when they need to spring into action.

I hope you read “*We can’t stop the Hackers.*” in Sunday’s New York Times. If it is true, and I have every reason to believe it is, American is asleep at the switch. When it comes to strategy in the event of a major cyber-attack, the article points out that “...the United States’ problem isn’t toughness – it’s an absence of strategy.” This should make everyone sleep better at night (not).

Based on research, I learned your “...Commission's mission is to listen to the public and learn from those who serve to recommend ideas to foster a greater ethos of military, national, and public service to strengthen American democracy. The Commission hopes to ignite a national conversation around service and, ultimately, develop recommendations that will encourage every American to be inspired and eager to serve.” Bravo for these fine ideals!

I’d love to attend any and all hearings open to the public in the Washington area. As you see from my letter to General Nakasone, I have had experience in a major infrastructure debacle years ago and can only imagine what would happen if such were to occur today with our total dependence on the internet. For that reason, I believe the Selective Service must be brought up to speed and recognize we’re no longer fighting 19<sup>th</sup> Century wars.

Last year I wrote to many members of your organization but never had any acknowledgement. You really must be more willing to listen to concerned American citizens. Also, your website fails to provide a USPS mailing address, which is a problem. Considering the nature of my communications, I do not want them to fall into the wrong hands.

America is woefully unprepared for a “cyber Pearl Harbor” and the best way to remedy this is to have “boots on the ground” should such a horror take place. This is where the Selective Service would play a vital role. I’d love to discuss the matter further with your committee members.

Respectfully,

Rosalind Ellis Heid

Attachments

October 10, 2018

Chaplain (Colonel) Franklin Eric Wester

2100 Lee Highway, # 545

Arlington, VA 22201

Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

ATTN: RFI Comment – Docket 05-2018-01

2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sirs/ Ma'ams:

I write in support of major changes to the current Selective Service registration aims and procedures. Chief among my requests is for the Selective Service registration, whatever form it may take in the future, to **make provision for Conscientious Objector status** at the time of registration.

As a career military officer, former senior military fellow at National Defense University (Fort McNair) with teaching opportunities at the senior service college, and Lutheran clergyman and military chaplain, I believe registration for military or other public service is strengthened by including provisions to identify as a Conscientious Objector (CO). The criteria for CO status should be at least as clear as specified by military regulations today. Such an option opens a pathway for alternative public service by COs.

Secondly, given continuing erosion of political and civil discourse along with untapped opportunities to foster stronger citizenship and service, I hope one outcome of the work of the Commission is **proposing unified program for mandatory, national public service** for men and women as a pathway toward adulthood in our Nation. Experts from Dr. Isabel Sawhill (Brookings) to retired (four-star) General Stanley McChrystal have laid out the benefits of national service. I hope the Commission can provide an achievable way forward for our country to benefit from the direct service and secondary benefits for deepening citizenship which a period of public service can provide.

Sincerely yours,



Franklin Eric Wester

To: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn RFI Comment - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Greetings:

As a member of World BEYOND War, I'm writing to urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to abolish the current U.S. selective service draft registration.

As Congressman Daniel Webster stated on the House floor in 1814: "The administration asserts the right to fill the ranks of the regular army by compulsion...Is this, sir, consistent with the character of a free government? Is this civil liberty? Is this the real character of our Constitution? No, sir, indeed it is not....Where is it written in the Constitution...that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war, in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it? Under what concealment has this power lain hidden...to trample down and destroy the dearest rights of personal liberty?"

If the Commission chooses not to abolish draft registration, then the following should be implemented:

1. Any person should be allowed to register as a conscientious objector.
2. Persons should be allowed the free choice of choosing non-military service and the same educational benefits provided for military service should be granted for persons who choose non-military service.
3. Persons should be allowed to choose serving in qualified non-violent service alternatives such as the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Peace Brigades International and Christian Peacemaker Teams. The educational benefits, health and retirement benefits, sign-on bonuses, salaries and other compensation for choosing a non-violent service alternative should be equivalent to the compensation and benefits for choosing military service.

Respectfully,



Alan Mytty, Coordinator, World BEYOND War Central Florida Chapter

1711 Sanderling St  
The Villages, FL 32162  
Phone: 317 373 7355

Email: [amytty@hcamllc.com](mailto:amytty@hcamllc.com)





WORLD BEYOND WAR.org

To: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn RFI Comment - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

As a member of World BEYOND War, I'm writing to urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to abolish the U.S. selective service draft registration. My requests to the commission include:

1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.
2. Do not begin requiring that women register.
3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.
4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

Additional Comments:

*I believe in a draft for public service only.*

Print Your First & Last Name: LAURENT F. GILBERT, SR

Signature: Laurent F. Gilbert, Sr.

City, State, & Zipcode: THE VILLAGES, FL - 32163

Date: 9-20-18

Your Preferred Contact Info (email or phone) (not required):

(Comments must be received no later than September 30, 2018.)

Wallace C. Winter  
1451 Wild Iris Lane  
Grayslake, IL 60030

September 28, 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000  
Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

As a long-time member of the Lake Forest Friends (Quakers) Meeting in Lake Forest, Illinois, I am submitting my comments in response to the Commission's request for public input on the issue of military, national and public service as it relates to selective service, the draft, and mandated national service.

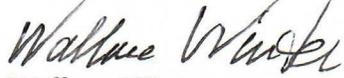
As a Quaker, I am dedicated to our Peace Testimony, which stresses the importance of actively preventing the occasion of all wars and recognizing that of God in every person, including those designated as "enemies."

Accordingly, I concur with the written comments submitted to this Commission on April 8, 2018, by the Boulder, Colorado Meeting of the Society of Friends. Specifically, I support the following substantive and procedural measures with regard to the future of any Draft, Registration, Selective Service, or mandated National Service:

1. The current law requiring all males of draft age to register for military service should be eliminated.
2. Females should not be included in the registration for military service.
3. There should be no associated denials or limitations of public service, opportunities and benefits (such as access to health care, education, admission or financial aid to attend universities, drivers' licenses, and any other social service benefits) based upon state, local, or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service.
4. If the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated, a clear and expeditious process should be established for registrants and active duty or reserves to declare that they conscientiously object to military service. This

personal declaration of conscientious objection should not be tied to a particular religious belief or membership in a religious organization. The only requirement should be a personal moral conviction that all wars are immoral.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wallace Winter".

Wallace Winter

Convener, Peace and Social Justice Committee



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 571-3742

December 21, 2018

Dr. Patricia Williams  
2673 Sewell Mill Rd  
Marietta, GA 30062

Dear Dr. Williams,

On behalf of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, thank you for writing to us. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

We continue to engage Americans and would still like to hear from citizens – like yourself – on any aspect of the Commission’s mission, including recommendations on the Selective Service System and ways to increase participation in military, national, and public service. The Commission will accept public comments until December 31, 2019.

For more information and to stay up to date with the Commission’s activities, please take a look at our website at [www.inspire2serve.gov](http://www.inspire2serve.gov). Additionally, we invite you to join the digital conversation on service by following the Commission at @Inspire2ServeUS on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Medium and using the hashtag #Inspire2Serve.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Kent Abernathy  
Executive Director  
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

Patricia A. Williams, Ed. D.

2673 Sewell Mill Road

Marietta, Georgia 30062-4714

30 November 2018

TO: National Commission on Military, National &  
Public Service

RE: RFI Comment Docket 05-2018-01

FR:

- 1) I wish to have an end of required selective service registration for men.
- 2) Do not require that women register
- 3) Allow the choice as a conscience objector if the above does not end
- 4) If a non-military service w/pay + benefits is established the pay + benefits should be equal to those of military service.

317 Washington Avenue  
North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454  
Email: unblocktheplanet@gmail.com

July 4, 2018

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01

Dear Commissioners,

I presume I am well-known to you, from my first submission on February 23, from my book received by each of you, *Free Radicals: War Resisters in Prison*, and from my several phone calls to the Commission's offices.

You have been demonstrating exemplary consideration of public views, really talking to Americans. You're paying attention to the people which most politicians fail at miserably.

As the Commission's hearing progress, I have been doing some serious thinking about the nature of compulsion. If service is genuinely worth doing, there is no need to force anyone. This makes registration for any sort of public service unnecessary.

We all need to think about service in broader terms. What does service to country mean? It certainly does not mean being a mindless drone in service of the government of the day.

Service to one's fellows, one's neighbors, one's community, is something quite different. Most of us do these little human services every day in many ways without ever thinking about it. This service comes from being a good person.

Perhaps we have not done enough to promote volunteerism. Selfless service for those in need. This service can occur at home or abroad simply to make the world safer, more secure, a better place for everyone.

We need to think long and hard about whether we're teaching our children the true value and meaning of serving others, how that service creates positive benefits in ripples throughout society, how that service creates a country at peace with itself and a peaceful world.

Right about now, if you've read this far, you're probably thinking I might be a dangerous idealist, or worse! However, my long life has taught me that we're only as good as we aspire to be, so aim high.

I think the human benefits of service are lost when a top-down, hierarchical system is imposed. 'Selective' Service is one such system. There's never been much "selective" about selective service. Those who are convinced of the rightness of war sign up, the uneducated poor with few opportunities are drafted, and the rest of us refuse!

If you are seriously considering continuing compulsory registration, whether for military or civilian service, I can't accept that, nor should any American. The next inevitable step is

punishment for failure or refusal to register or to serve. When a government compels service through criminal penalties, such service is still called slavery.

I've written a list, appended below, on alternative service for you to think about.

Thank you for your consideration, and your work.

peace&freedom,  
CJ Hinke



**CO: Eight questions on alternative service**

CJ Hinke

- 1) Is alternative service mandatory for a CO? (Many COs object to the compulsory nature of alternative service.)
- 2) Is a CO's sincerity determined by a country's military? (Obviously, military authority has no qualifications to judge COs.)
- 3) Are all beliefs against war accepted, such as political and social convictions, rather than just religion? (If even the most extreme antiwar views are not fully and equally accepted, the alternative service system doesn't work for everyone.)
- 4) Must a potential draftee decide his or her conscience from the outset of the conscription process? And what opportunities are offered for changing one's mind and becoming a CO later on?
- 5) Are active duty and reserve soldiers given the opportunity to declare CO?
- 6) Does any aspect of alternative service enable a functioning military or support it in any way?
- 7) Is the length of alternative service equal to, i.e., not longer than, military service?
- 8) The purpose of conscientious objection is to remove one's body from the war machine. This is called substitute service. It removes one soldier from the military ranks and drafts another in their place.

However, if one's country employs exactly the same number of soldiers, not minus one—you—alternative service is an ineffective means for stopping war.

These considerations are vitally important for COs considering alternative service rather than prison.

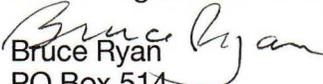
May 9, 2018

### Comments on Selective Service

Draft registration has been shown to be unnecessary : the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan used increased recruitment and National Guard to avoid the draft (and, possibly a Congressional declaration).

Draft registration, if continued, should make clear the options for conscientious objector status if it cannot be noted on the registration explicitly. As a member of our local Draft Board since 2005 I have participated in the excellent and fair training in ascertaining a draftee's qualifications for modification or exemption from military service. However, this is after the fact and not well known to men before being drafted .

There are lifelong penalties for not registering .This inherent non-judicial punishment should be eliminated. This can be fairly addressed either by eliminating the draft or by allowing objector status upon registration and letting that be verified by appearing before the Local Board when summoned to active service. Somewhat as it is now except that the draftee knows from the time of registration what will be required.

  
Bruce Ryan  
PO Box 514  
Brightwood, OR 97011

LT USNR  
active 1960-1963  
reserve 1963-1964  
active 1965-1967  
Local Draft Board 2005-present

WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BY DRAFT RESISTER C.J. HINKE, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

317 Washington Avenue, North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454

Commission on Service <[national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil](mailto:national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil)>,

Subject: "Docket No. 05-2018-01" **RFI COMMENT**

Dear Commissioners,

While US history may be a history of almost-continuous wars, it is no less a history of war refusers. The US since its inception was a haven in the world for freedom of religion which often incorporated war refusal into the consciences, study, and doctrine of members of the traditional peace churches.

I should point out to you Commissioners that among religionists, America has seen the Amish here in Pennsylvania; Roman, Greek, and Russian Catholics; Quakers; Mennonites with 1.5 million current believers; Brethren; Hutterites; Doukhobors; Molokans; Jews; 1.2 million Jehovah's Witnesses; 1.1 million Seventh Day Adventists; 200,000 Unitarian Universalists; Baha'i; Sufis; 50,000 Nation of Islam; Muslims; and a million Pentecostals, among other war resisters. These believers, even today, do not have inconsequential demographics.

No fewer were political war refusers who had reached this ethical position for the greater good of us all. Socialists of many kinds; student revolutionaries; Black Lives Matter; Latino farm workers; and anarchists, to name a few. With the advent of Occupy Wall Street or anti-globalization protest, can you imagine these folks would sign up for war? High school and university students? Think you can put these genies back in the bottle, cow these Americans by force of law? You may want to reconsider.

The US created a system for conscientious objection to military service but then made it so restrictive only traditional objectors could take advantage of it. In particular, a man needed to be a pacifist and oppose all wars.

Of course, this system left out many men. These absolutist objectors then chose prison over war. Even though Civilian Public Service from 1941 through 1947 made alternatives available to COs, many young men refused to cooperate and many others walked away. The draft is a feudal press-gang running continuously in the U.S. since 1940. Under such compulsion, there will always be those who walk away.

My very best birthday present ever was the ending of the US war on Vietnam on April 30, 1975. I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft, in December 1976. And pardoned by President Jimmy Carter on January 22, 1977.

In the process, the US war machine robbed me of my country. I moved to Canada and lost many of my ties with the US.

I will refrain from presenting the argument here that, just maybe, we should not be fighting all these wars, or any, until we solve America's own problems, that \$700 billion could be better spent on social services and humanitarian efforts.

But I can tell you for a fact that, if registration for military conscription is mandatory, as it is today, a great percentage of young citizens will continue to evade this requirement by refusing to register or making themselves impossible for government's computers to find.

Military service has been touted since Vietnam as a way out of poverty, a route to a practical education, employability, and economic security. I think that's nonsense, of course, but just suppose government made such education and training a reality but in the *civilian* sphere, at a fair, living wage with a pension plan? I believe young people would sign up, *voluntarily*, in droves. What about training for nonviolent civilian defense which can actually protect us all?

I hope this Commission is honestly considering ending draft registration. I refused to register in 1968 and I'd refuse today. I would always choose prison over war and there are many more like me.

We need fewer troops, more public service at home, and more relief efforts overseas. Let's make that available to our next generation, not compulsory. Accomplishing this teaches our young people peace instead of war.

We finally have the opportunity to do the right thing, to strike our own path, irrespective of conscription in any other country. Selective Service should rest... in peace. It's time to put an end to the draft in America, once and for all.

No registration, no draft of men, women, or professionals. Return us the freedom on which our nation was founded.



peace&freedom,

CJ Hinke

Author, *Free Radicals: War Resisters in Prison*

<https://www.amazon.com/Free-Radicals-War-Resisters-Prison/dp/>

As a final note, I wish to mention that I will make myself fully available for consultation with the Commission over this issue.

3000 Two Logan Square  
Eighteenth and Arch Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2799  
215.981.4000  
Fax 215.981.4750

Please  
draft reply  
Thanking him  
interest  
And  
copy of his  
Commission  
book  
M. Kelly Tillery  
direct dial: 215.981.4401  
direct fax: 215.689.1471  
tilleryk@pepperlaw.com

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck, Chairman  
National Commission on Military, National  
and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box 63  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

**RE: "On Service"**

Dear Chairman Heck:

I had the honor to serve as a Youth Consultant/Research Assistant for the President's National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse in 1972. As you may recall, that Commission, chaired by former Pennsylvania Governor Raymond P. Shafer (R.), boldly recommended the decriminalization of marijuana in its first report. Although President Richard Nixon rather cavalierly dismissed it as too radical, time has vindicated the wisdom of that courageous recommendation.

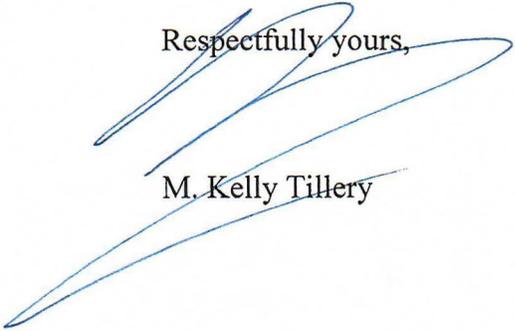
I am hopeful that your fine commission will likewise have the courage and foresight to make similar bold recommendations regarding universal public service.

In that regard, I thought that you might appreciate my recently published book, a copy of which is enclosed, which includes articles on my service to the Presidential Commission ("Reefer Madness Redux", page 205) as well as an essay on public service ("On Service", page 107).

If my experience and expertise can be of any assistance to your and/or the Commission, please do not hesitate to call upon me. Best regards.

Page 2  
February 26, 2019

Respectfully yours,



M. Kelly Tillery

MKT:pab  
Enclosure

**Statement of Paul Jacob**

National Commission on Military, National and Political Service

***Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory?***

Feb. 21, 2019

American University, Washington, D.C.

Americans need to know that Congress is actively considering the possibility of drafting young adults — our kids — and forcing them into service against their will. Sadly, frighteningly, that is why we are here today for a hearing entitled, “Should Service be Mandatory?”

The answer to your question is emphatically NO.

No involuntary servitude.

I bet that, deep down, commissioners, you agree. Why? Your website is “inspire2serve.gov” and the emails I receive from your excellent staff bear that same “inspire2serve.gov” domain name. I get it. It has a great ring and I am sure that you do want to inspire Americans to serve.

That’s noble and good.

I suspect, however, that you would not want to use an email address or website saying “force2serve.gov” or, perhaps, “draft2serve.gov” or “conscript2serve.gov,” would you? And I guess “drag-them-out-of-their-homes-and-away-from-their-lives-and-imprison-them-to-do-routine-government-work.gov” is, no matter how accurate, simply too long.

Provided the Commission recommends to Congress that there should be no draft, “inspire2serve.gov” works perfectly. But if there is even the slightest chance you will suggest that Congress pass legislation compelling every young person to submit to the federal government for a year of forced labor, then that website address just isn’t right.

It would be a lie.

I beseech this Commission: forswear forced service of any kind. And please, before you consider recommending a program of compulsory national service, change your email and web addresses to “force2serve.gov.” For even a week or two. See how it feels to be part of a Commission that no longer “inspires to serve,” but instead, uses force to make people serve.

That “force2serve” slogan won’t be very inspiring.

[267]

**Walter L. Stewart, Jr.**

Major General (Retired)  
Army National Guard of the United States

Commander, 28th Infantry Division (1996-98)  
Director, H.Q. United States European Command (1994-96)  
United States Army: Aviation Branch, Infantry Branch

54 Tully Garron Farm Lane  
Bernville, Pennsylvania 19506-9559

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Joseph Heck, Chairman  
National Commission on Military and Civilian Service  
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite 1000, Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Heck,

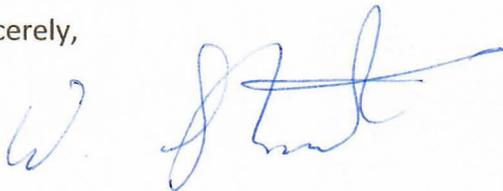
I was unaware of your commission until I watched your group's recent presentation on C-Span. At first blush, I think your mission is to tell Congress how to better whistle past the graveyard of failed nations. The all-volunteer force (AVF) is a failure, and we can no longer ignore it because we can no longer raise an army, or, God forbid, sustain it in combat. Talk about aid and comfort to an enemy!

Anyway, I wrote about this in 2006, and enclose a copy of what was published in Military Review, "The Professional Journal of the U.S. Army." As you can imagine, I had numbers of professionals wishing to throw me off a bridge, with others in agreement. A much abridged version became lead in a Vigi Wagner, Greenhaven Press, high school civics textbook on the military draft. However, regrettably, our schools no longer teach civics!

Since you are asking for ideas as to how to move forward, I suggest a first step of going back. My essay details the dreams, theories, and misconceptions of how we got into the mess we are in. I also suggest a single viable solution. The National Guards won't like it, but love of country leads.

I hope you don't mind me copying Representative Scott Perry (PA - 10). He and I soldiered together, and he knows this is my fight.

Sincerely,



Cf. Representative Scott Perry, PA - 10  
Longworth House Office Building



## CALLED AND GIFTED

Everyone has been called and gifted by God. Called in the sense that God has given each of us a task or tasks to do within His Kingdom. Gifted in the sense that God has given each of us the necessary gift or gifts in order to do the assigned task or tasks. Thus all have been called and gifted. Age, economic status, position, and other factors have no bearing on this. God says come and we respond by going and doing..

Most people think that it is the Pastors job to do the work of God's Kingdom. I disagree. All of us are responsible for doing the work of God's Kingdom.

What is our Lord calling you to do for His Kingdom? How will you respond?

AS AMERICAN CITIZENS, WE HAVE  
IMPORTANT RIGHTS + RESPONSIBILITIES.  
WE NEED TO DO BOTH. WHEN WE  
DO THIS, A STRONG NATION  
RISES.

ROBERT N. WRIGHT, JR  
APARTMENT 304  
THE VILLA AT SUFFIELD  
MEADOWS  
6735 SUFFIELD LANE  
WARRENTON, VA 20187  
TEL: 540-349-2489

**Christopher J. Holshek  
Col., U.S. Army (ret.)  
1704 Rosewood Court  
Highland Mills, NY 10930  
1.845.800.6880  
holshek@hotmail.com**

29 January 2019

Dr. Joseph Heck  
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box 63  
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: National Service Ride Support to the Commission

Dear Dr. Heck,

Reference my comments posted electronically on 28 January, here is a copy of my book, *Travels with Harley – Journeys in Search of Personal and National Identity*. As mentioned, I think you will find the discussions in Chs. 4, 12, and 13 of most interest.

I would very much like to open a dialogue with the Commission to explore how the National Service Ride may contribute to the Commission's outstanding work. You can learn more about this initiative to help America move forward through citizenship to community and country at [www.nationalserviceride.net](http://www.nationalserviceride.net).

In particular, as my comments noted, I would be prepared to help look at integrating community service into the scope of the Commission's analysis, fostering a national strategic narrative on service, coordinating the rich array of service-oriented organizations and platforms to engender greater wholesale impact, and to leverage the private sector.

Please give my regards to Dr. Janine Davidson, whom I have known for some years on mutual matter of national security and civil-military relations and is an excellent choice to help head up this vital national project.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Holshek

encls

Dear National Commission on Public Service,

1/31/19

I whole heartedly support your goals and aspirations, but I have a couple of points of view I wanted to share with you.

The first is that I don't think that you go far enough. I am not an accomplished word smith, but I honestly don't think that we need a feel-good campaign to get people to take an interest and put some effort in keeping this country in good shape. In the simplest of terms everyone needs to deal with the care and maintenance of their lives, why should their country be any different?

We should return to Universal Conscription, and that is what it needs to be, Universal. I have yet to speak to anyone who is not willing to listen to the idea if it could be implemented fairly and properly. All seem to agree that it might be a method to start to tie our country back together again. To return our country to some reasonable place where all of us are more willing to tolerate others if we are all pulling in the same direction of trying to make our country a better place.

If you are LeBron James, you are going in, if you are Mitt Romney's son, you are going in, if you are in a wheel chair, you are going in, if you have three babies, you are going in, if you just got out of jail, you are going in. Everyone goes, with very few exceptions; there will be allowances to adjust the timing of your service, but everyone before some cut off age serves.

Once explained properly it is hard to see how anyone who has any regard for this country or concerns about our future would be opposed to it. Most people live a little bit of this obligation, but it mostly local. Being in the PTA, helping at the food bank, coaching a youth sport. It is done every day in every location, we want to do our part. Someone just needs to ask more of us. I am sure that structured properly it is the one sure way to pull this country out of its fracturing nature.

I think that you would be surprised at the level of support UC might garner. The key is always "Universal", rich, white kids go too. For those that have conscientious objections I would like to point out that when we did have a draft, people with centuries long documented objections such as Mennonites, routinely committed to serve two years of public services such as working in a hospital. I have always been amazed at how many folks feel that not having served in the military was an experience that they are sorry they missed and feel that UC would be good for their kids and the nation. There are no good rational arguments against it because at the end of any debate the question always comes back to "why shouldn't every citizen have some sort of public service obligation? There are no free riders anywhere in the universe. Beyond philosophical terms though the net saving to the public sector and growth and development of the private sector will provide an ongoing stimulus program for decades.

In my mind the closing arguments for UC are:

- If the political parties are against it, the average citizen, who now does the serving, will look at both chambers and conclude that they think that they are good enough to rule us, but too good to serve with us.
- Living in this country is a privilege and everyone I have ever talked to ascribes to the notion that some sort of service to the country is reasonable. We need to stop thinking of the military as the only location for valuable public service. The entire public space can be served by universal conscription: TSA, Border Patrol, National Parks, National Highway System, hospitals, schools and on and on. The active branches of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard should

be joined by the Border Patrol in being able to have first choice of each year's candidates and draft them for service. There could be a deferred service provision. Perhaps a draftee for the Marines would like to get his degree in Computer Science or play football first and then serve with them. If they agree, this person would go to school, on the GI bill, join ROTC and then the Marines upon graduation or completion of their professional career. This reverse pipeline would be greatly beneficial to all parties. The draftee would get their education and then move directly into a challenging real-world job in their chosen field. Upon completing their service, they then move into the private sector twice as qualified as they would have been in the school to work route. The other side of this is that with many getting deferred service there will be a new crop of skilled and experienced, slightly older individuals entering the military every year bringing their improved skills and knowledge with them. This also means that the nations best and brightest will always be as exposed to war as the rest of us. Undrafted conscripts will be given a myriad of options to choose from in addition to joining any of the active duty military.

- UC creates a much stronger nation, and this would be more feared and respected in the world than the addition of any high tech and expensive weaponry. With everyone having to serve in some fashion, and all are available for call to active military duty if necessary, it makes the strongest possible statement to the rest of the world about how we will protect our interests in the future. Because of the nature of universal conscription, we will all have skin in the game in the future because some person of your family will probably be serving, no matter what your age. That means if we are upset enough to want to come and kick your ass, you need to understand that we are all behind the effort, not 50-50 (with 2% engaged) as in the past several wars. The other positive side of that is that it is much less likely we will engage in wars as political tools rather than as life defending measures. A strong and united country is much scarier and more formidable, than all the nuclear weapons that we have that everyone knows that we will never use. This will also mean that politicians who feel that war is the answer for everything, international duct tape if you will, they will know that their family and friends are now just as exposed to dying for their beliefs as your family is.
- It is clear, that for most Americans now, where you start is where you will finish in life, UC will reset the starting line for everyone at the beginning of their productive years. Those that have all the advantages will have some delays but mostly beneficial effects on their life outcomes. Those that don't have all the advantages will be taken into environments where they will have time and the opportunity to catch up and stay caught up to where they should be in 21<sup>st</sup> century America.
- It is the road to Universal Education Benefits. Everyone serves; everyone is entitled to the GI (DNS) Education Benefits. If you don't use them, they just get credited to your Social Security Account for use during later parts of your life if you want to use them for some educational or improvement need, or they just continue to accrue and become part of your retirement payouts. The assumption being that if you didn't use them for education it is likely that you earned less money in your life and thus paid in less and will consequently need more assistance in retirement. A more secure retirement through Social Security is now accessible to all.
- It is the road to Universal Health Care. Everyone serves, everyone is part of the VA, the VA is dismantled, and other people sort out how to best adjust the health care market and generate savings in the hundreds of billions.
- There is approx 2 – 3 million new 18-year-old people in the US each year and with an active duty military already absorbing 700,000 people under 25 there is not an enormous pool of people to work with and they can be easily absorbed in the nation's service infrastructure. For many of the services that the govt supplies it evolves into a permanent, entrenched labor force that can continue to extract ever higher costs for the same services. The majority of union members are now govt employees and the spillover effect of these unions into other parts of the economy is small. I

believe that much of what our govt does can be done by the available pool of 18 to 32 years old that will come into the DNS. If we can train an 18 yr old to be capable of going into combat I am sure that we can train other young people to inspect bags at the airport, inspect cargo containers, do border patrol work, protect our parks, and whatever else we need. These are all things that all of us need, we should just take care of them ourselves and cut out the middle man. There is no shortage of areas of our public life that we can't use more manpower. Schools, parks, roads, beaches, forests, hospitals and on and on. The military will go back to making their own food, doing their own maintenance, cutting their own grass. We don't need to have outside, expensive labor for every govt chore; we should be smart enough to get the work done and at the same time get valuable job and life skill training done for those that need it so they can build better lives for themselves. I know that each group that will be displaced will have their facts and figures why they should continue to stay on as they are, but they can't. Let's not forget all of this will take time to implement and much of the displacement of workers that will come will be through attrition. Also, since we will now have universal health care many will leave for better jobs on the outside since they won't have to sacrifice those benefits. Governments have to get more for what we pay, and an entrenched employee force is not a way out of our fiscal problems. We as a citizenry need to solve the problem in an ongoing and permanent manner.

- Everyone will have to pass through a boot camp the same as is standard for the army. Here everyone will have to meet minimum standards for several areas before being able to move onto further training and assignment. Some of these standards will be physical others will be more functional such as basic money management and minimal technology proficiency and most importantly everyone that can will have to stay until they pass the minimum learning skills tests and have at the very least a GED if possible. This alone will make many drop outs stay in school which has its own useful effects. Everyone will start their adult hood with training in basic hygiene and public health. They will also have basic first aid skills. Those that can, will have at the very least a GED and an introduction into how large organizations and small groups of committed people work, what is expected at work. An intensive life skills training course that lasts for at least two years for those that need it, and perhaps tedium for those that don't. If we are going to lessen the cost to all of society for those that don't or can't work as hard as the rest of us, we have to give everyone the necessary skills and understandings to be able to be contributing members. We have to lift everyone into the boat and give them an oar even if it is a small one.
  - *I would like to restate the meaning of the above paragraph in cruder, but more realistic terms.* There are a lot of dumb ass people in this country and they then have dumb ass children and there is no mechanism to help these folks get and be better. Nobody wants to be a failure, live on welfare, not be smart, not be able to take care of your family properly. But for many folks there is simply no road map and no possible way of following the map if they find it. UC could be the force that breaks that cycle for a lot of our less fortunate citizens.
- Everyone will start with a clear understanding of how to get and stay physically fit and because of their continuing obligations to a ready reserve they will be required to stay physically fit after being discharged from the DNS or US Military. A fitter, healthier population is the only way to get ahead of the health care train wreck, and this will start the nation firmly down that path.
- By design, the passing through the military or DNS will make everyone smarter and better prepared to move into the future we are creating for ourselves. Think of it as more of a national finishing school. Everyone will have a certain level of skills and knowledge that should make everyone more employable. I would expect that we would see a minimum growth of at least 1% in GDP once the first waves of the DNS discharges start hitting the streets since that will now be a million much better prepared healthier and smarter citizens then the million before them.

- Because of the ability to give everyone the same physicals and collect the same health data on everyone we will begin to develop the kind of data base that will allow future medical entrepreneurs the raw materials to root out new and useful information to make and keep our society healthier and our costs lower going forward.
- The collection of DNA for every entering member will allow for a number of advantages as long as we deal with the appropriate privacy concerns. But those should be small since your potential health cannot be held against you for insurance or work. Science will be able to take advantage of all this data to move towards a health care system of prevention and genetic interventions rather than repair and replace or treat and die.
- The age window for UC will disrupt the cycle where young men fall into crime and young women into unintended motherhood. By gathering up large numbers of these unfortunate ones at any one time it will reduce the total number of folks that can be recruited into crime at any one time and hopefully will give the returning ones the skills and tools necessary to not need to turn to crime. Having children before joining the DNS won't stop you from having to serve. Let's find ways to give people a chance to have better lives, it is cheaper than just expecting them to do it and then having to pay for the damages anyway.
- If we can keep an additional 100,000 people from going into a life of crime over the 10 years the avoided cost of imprisonment alone will save taxpayers over \$ 10 billion a year and turn those individuals into productive citizens paying their way with as much as another \$ 5 billion in taxes. If you factor in the increased economic benefit of all these folks being in the economy, it probably generates a \$ 100 billion swing to the positive side freeing up that money to fund the things like health care and pensions
- Our society is now mostly completely segregated based on class and in many ways, neighborhood. We need to have a compelling reason to meet others that are also citizens and now we have one.
- For the vast majority of those entering DNS it will be their first time away from home and into a world of new experiences. I believe that the value of NS for many young will come for those just leaving high school and with no clear ideas of what they want to do or how to do it. Perhaps many will get experiences there that will help them form ideas about what they want to do and set forth on much more productive lives filled with more satisfaction for them and their family. You can only do the things that you are aware of.
- Very few of our citizens that are facing retirement are equipped financially to do so and so large numbers of them will have to continue to work. Universal conscription will have a beneficial effect in as much as it delays the introduction of a few million new faces into the work force each year, thus leaving space for these older workers.
- We must also face the fact that there are many in our society that are good people, fine to be friends with, good workers but every so often they go off the rails because there are no structures to help them maintain a balance in their lives that does not include the justice system at frequent intervals. We need to find a place in the NS for these folks and help them be the best people they can be and move them into the asset column rather than being a drain on society. A structure inside of the military is much more adept at keeping people propped up rather than locked down.

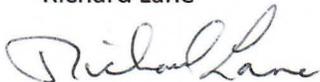
This is not the best place for a detailed analysis for what would be the hardest part of selling such a plan is how does it get paid for, but the following highlights show that it would be economically positive.

1. Cost shifting – Some of the money needed for the influx of as many as 2 million new faces each year will come from the transfer of the costs of the work that is currently being done by contractors. All the manual labor such as landscaping, laundry, building maintenance, data entry and other low-level entry type jobs will be filled with those who have the least skills and need the most assistance. Most will not have any useful job experience or any ideas on what it is like to have a job. These jobs will be a net savings to the nation's budgets.
  - a. The avoided/transferred costs of the former private contractor doing the chore (many of these private contractors will probably be draft eligible so they will not be net job losses)
  - b. The avoided/transferred costs of any job training that might occurred
  - c. For those that will in effect become wards of the system where they are working there will be the savings associated with welfare and police costs.
2. Avoided Costs - Societal
  - a. The avoided costs of any welfare payments to individuals that might need assistance
  - b. The avoided costs of violent crimes that won't occur by the 18-year old's that will be in the military. With as many as 200,000 violent crimes committed by this group a 10% reduction would save the police/judicial/prison systems over \$ 2 billion annually
  - c. Long term Reduced welfare costs associated with old age. Since everyone will be brought into the workforce via UC at an early age everyone will get started earlier on making contributions to Social Security so that their benefit amounts will be larger.
3. Avoided Costs - Medical
  - a. 10% reduction in the medical costs associated with these violent crimes would save another \$2 billion annually
  - b. Summary of youth health status
    - i. 30% of young adults couldn't meet military fitness standards for entry
    - ii. 18% of 18-year-olds are obese
    - iii. 12 million children are obese
    - iv. By 2030 half of the population will be obese
    - v. Obesity consumes over \$ 350 billion in medical costs, 20% of total health care
  - c. \$100 billion in medical costs could be saved annually due to better health of the citizens after the first five years of Universal Conscription and then continue to grow
  - d. \$100 billion in system savings due to single payer system
4. Increased Revenue
  - a. 16% of kids don't graduate from high school, if that is cut to 5% the additional money that someone makes with a high school diploma vs without one will generate \$ 300 million in new income taxes in the first 5 years
    - i. Some % of these kids will also continue their education further increasing their value

I wish you the best of luck in your campaign

Regards,

Richard Lane



WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO THE SERVICE COMMISSION  
BY DRAFT RESISTER C.J. HINKE

Commission on Service <[national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil](mailto:national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil)>,

Subject: "Docket No. 05-2018-01"

Dear Commissioners,

While US history may be a history of almost-continuous wars, it is no less a history of war refusers. The US since its inception was a haven in the world for freedom of religion which often incorporated war refusal into the consciences, study, and doctrine of members of the traditional peace churches.

I should point out to you Commissioners that among religionists, America has seen the Amish here in Pennsylvania; Roman, Greek, and Russian Catholics; Quakers; Mennonites with 1.5 million current believers; Brethren; Hutterites; Doukhobors; Molokans; Jews; 1.2 million Jehovah's Witnesses; 1.1 million Seventh Day Adventists; 200,000 Unitarian Universalists; Baha'i; Sufis; 50,000 Nation of Islam; Muslims; and a million Pentecostals, among other war resisters. These believers, even today, do not have inconsequential demographics.

No fewer were political war refusers who had reached this ethical position for the greater good of us all. Socialists of many kinds; student revolutionaries; Black Lives Matter; Latino farm workers; and anarchists, to name a few. With the advent of Occupy Wall Street or anti-globalization protest, can you imagine these folks would sign up for war? High school and university students? Think you can put these genies back in the bottle, cow these Americans by force of law? You may want to reconsider.

The US created a system for conscientious objection to military service but then made it so restrictive only traditional objectors could take advantage of it. In particular, a man needed to be a pacifist and oppose all wars.

Of course, this system left out many men. These absolutist objectors then chose prison over war. Even though Civilian Public Service from 1941 through 1947 made alternatives available to COs, many young men refused to cooperate and many others walked away. The draft is a feudal press-gang running continuously in the U.S. since 1940. Under such compulsion, there will always be those who walk away.

My very best birthday present ever was the ending of the US war on Vietnam on April 30, 1975. I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft, in December 1976. And pardoned by President Jimmy Carter on January 22, 1977.

In the process, the US war machine robbed me of my country. I moved to Canada and lost many of my ties with the US.

I will refrain from presenting the argument here that, just maybe, we should not be fighting all these wars, or any, until we solve America's own problems, that \$700 billion

could be better spent on social services and humanitarian efforts.

But I can tell you for a fact that, if registration for military conscription is mandatory, as it is today, a great percentage of young citizens will continue to evade this requirement by refusing to register or making themselves impossible for government's computers to find.

Military service has been touted since Vietnam as a way out of poverty, a route to a practical education, employability, and economic security. I think that's nonsense, of course, but just suppose government made such education and training a reality but in the *civilian* sphere, at a fair, living wage with a pension plan? I believe young people would sign up, *voluntarily*, in droves. What about training for nonviolent civilian defense which can actually protect us all?

I hope this Commission is honestly considering ending draft registration. I refused to register in 1968 and I'd refuse today. I would always choose prison over war and there are many more like me.

We need fewer troops, more public service at home, and more relief efforts overseas. Let's make that available to our next generation, not compulsory. Accomplishing this teaches our young people peace instead of war.

We finally have the opportunity to do the right thing, to strike our own path, irrespective of conscription in any other country. Selective Service should rest...in peace. It's time to put an end to the draft in America, once and for all.

No registration, no draft of men, women, or professionals. Return us the freedom on which our nation was founded.

peace&freedom,

CJ Hinke

Author, *Free Radicals: War Resisters in Prison*

<https://www.amazon.com/Free-Radicals-War-Resisters-Prison/dp/>

As a final note, I wish to mention that I will make myself fully available for consultation with the Commission over this issue.

## **The National Commission on Military, Nacional, and Public Service**

Public hearing

The future of military, national, and public service in the United States

February 23, 2018

### **Statement opposing the reinstatement of the military draft**

I am a conscientious objector to war. This is a faith conviction coming out of my commitment to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, to love my neighbor, even the enemy. My conscientious objection conviction also comes from my historic peace church tradition in which I a member of the Brethren in Christ.

As such, I oppose the reinstatement of the military draft to serve in the United States Armed Forces. In addition to the fore mentioned reasons, I believe moral integrity is sacrificed when war is carried out through armed conflict. Justice and truth are silenced through a weaponized struggle.

Bringing back the draft, even if that were to level the playing field by including women, is not the answer. But more than that, the United States Armed Forces needs to re-imagine conflict resolution. There are more creative ways to fight war than by killing people. Instead of being willing to die for your country in war, how would it be if the United States gained the high moral ground through truth and conciliation commissions which address historic harm, through economic development, and by working for peace through justice?

Rev. Curtis Book

134 Lincoln Ave.

Lancaster, PA 17603

My name is Titus Peachey. I am a long-time resident of Lancaster City. I am grateful for this opportunity to offer brief testimony on my own behalf.

I grew up in a Mennonite household and church that taught the way of peace and nonviolence as an integral part of our faith. Our ultimate loyalty was to God and the worldwide community of faith. We believed that war violated the very purpose for which we lived...to nurture and respect the image of God in each human being and to build communities of peace that broke down the walls built by nationalism, racism and economic disparity.

With these commitments deep in my heart, I dropped out of college in 1970 and went to Vietnam to perform 3 years of alternative service as a conscientious objector to war under the auspices of the Mennonite Church. This I did voluntarily, as I had actually failed my physical examination and was not required to serve. I served alongside dozens of others my age who had been drafted but were also conscientious objectors who volunteered to do their service in Vietnam. There were also many young women who had not been drafted, but also served voluntarily in Vietnam as an expression of their commitments to service and peace.

From these experiences I offer these comments on service:

- The most meaningful service is voluntary, not mandatory.
- Conscientious objectors to war are willing to serve in dangerous places and can make significant contributions to the peaceful and secure world that we all desire.
- The present-day requirement to register with Selective Service should be abandoned, as it only exists to support a return to mandatory conscription which I oppose. It also creates additional burdens for some conscientious objectors who cannot cooperate with a system that would send conscripts to war.

I support incentivizing voluntary peaceful service under civilian direction. This already exists. Let's expand it greatly and create a culture of voluntary service.

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**TESTIMONY OF MATT NICODEMUS, CONTEMPORARY U.S. DRAFT RESISTER,  
TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

June 28, 2018, Kennedy-King College, U Building, Mini Great Hall, 740 W. 63<sup>rd</sup> St., Chicago, IL

Ladies and gentleman of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, my name is Matthew Nicodemus. I was born June 9, 1960. I presently live in Boulder, Colorado. I've been a draft registration refuser since mandatory sign-up with Selective Service was revived in June of 1980.

It has now been about six months since I first learned of your existence, stated goals, and activities. On April 19, I spoke at the public hearing you held in Denver, Colorado, where I related my own history of opposition and resistance to the conscription system in this country and advised you that, if the U.S. government attempted to bring back the draft, it would be met with noncompliance that is already massive and would only grow larger and stronger.

Today, having studied your informational materials, followed your series of public "conversations" across the country, communicated personally with your staff, and heard from a number of individuals and organizations that have communicated with you, I must state that you are not being open and honest with Americans about your intentions and plans, and that you are almost certainly intending to recommend to Congress in 2020 that the nation once again have a military draft, this time through a compulsory national service program. I believe you are doing this because the United States' requirements for personnel to maintain global military dominance and wage continuous, permanent war around the world are not being met.

Our armed forces are unable to recruit and retain enough volunteers, so you envision solving that problem under the guise of a program of forced public 'service' which promotes a variety of different compulsory 'service' options but makes the military 'service' option especially attractive to conscripts, likely by requiring a shorter term of 'service' and/or offering higher salaries and benefits to those choosing the military option.

The news release about this hearing which I wrote and disseminated yesterday to Chicago-area news media – I've brought copies for each of you -- describes some of the evidence upon which I base my claims about the direction in which the Commission is heading. Two specific pieces of that evidence which I'll note here:

- 1) Bill Galvin of the Center on Conscience and War in Washington, DC communicated to me on June 25, "We have talked to the staff of the Commission at length, and one thing the commission seems interested in is some sort of mandatory national service program. Military service would be a part of it, but it would not be military conscription per se."

- 2) Edward Hasbrouck, the founder of Resisters.info, responded, "That's also the impression I get from the reports on the closed-door briefings and reports the Commission has received, which I got in response to my FOIA request."

If you are indeed considering recommending a plan of compulsory national service, and if you're considering recommending to Congress special measures to obtain for the military the trained professionals it requires in mission-critical areas including health care, STEM, cyber, and foreign languages, I urge you to be honest and direct about that with the public for the duration of your mandated term, and to be responsible to them and to Congress by seeking out and paying close attention to the people who may be forced into 'service' by a national service draft or other process of conscription.

Due to the limitations of time this evening, I've only stated my points in most basic form. I will submit expanded written versions of this testimony and my April 19 statement to you before the September 30 deadline.

Thank you very much.

**Note:** Matt Nicodemus was born in 1960 and for the most part raised in Evanston, Illinois. In the fall of 1978, as a freshman at Stanford University, Nicodemus joined over 100 fellow students in signing a declaration to President Jimmy Carter's attorney general, Griffin Bell, stating that, aware of the potential legal consequences (maximum 5 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$25,000), they would refuse to participate in any way with U.S. military conscription if it was reinstated. From that day on, Nicodemus became an increasingly dedicated organizer of opposition to the draft. In June of 1980, with the mass compulsory draft registration of males born in and after 1960 ordered by President Carter the previous fall following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan set to begin, Nicodemus joined fellow resisters Edward Hasbrouck and Sasha Levine in a Chicago news conference, one of multiple simultaneous events across the country, where they announced their intention to refuse to sign up with Selective Service; the news conference received national media attention. Nicodemus later mailed copies of a draft resistance speech he'd made at Stanford to President Ronald Reagan and a host of elected and appointed government officials at the highest levels. His parents, *Chicago Sun-Times* investigative reporter and editor Charles Nicodemus and Virginia Nicodemus, then working for a furniture industry professional association, totally supported his resistance to war and were, with him, co-founders of Evanston Against Registration and the Draft. Virginia Nicodemus joined a delegation of peace activists who met with then-U.S. attorney Dan Webb to request that he devote his office's resources to going after criminals endangering society rather than conscientious young nonregistrants who were trying to prevent war's murders. Webb never indicted any draft law violators. Matt Nicodemus has paid a price for his noncompliance with Selective Service; he lost a year's worth of federal student aid for college and is unable to obtain future federal student assistance, federal employment, and federal job training. But he's never regretted his decision to refuse to register for the draft and remains deeply committed to aiding and abetting others who make that choice. Currently, Matt Nicodemus is involved with a number of projects and organizations working for a world without war and other forms of social-environmental destruction, including Resisters.info, the War Resisters League, the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Global Nonviolent Revolution Now, and Sworn to Refuse. He resides in Boulder, Colorado.

Matt Nicodemus: E-mail: [mattnico8@yahoo.com](mailto:mattnico8@yahoo.com); Cell: 720-979-9967

**This testimony and contact info is available at [TopPun.com/blog](http://TopPun.com/blog)**

*I originally prepared this testimony to be presented in person to the Commission at their public meeting on June 28, 2018, in Chicago. Since only a few minutes for comments were available at that meeting, I submit my full testimony below:*

My name is Dan Rutt. I have traveled from Toledo, Ohio, to be here today. I have come from 250 miles away to testify to you about service. I am volunteering my time to testify about that which is involuntary: conscience. I have come much further than 250 miles to be here today...

My testimony is rooted in family history predating the existence of the United States of America. I am 12th generation in this land now known as the United States of America. In the early 1700's, my ancestors settled on land given to them by William Penn, on what would come to be known as Pennsylvania. My Mennonite ancestors fled Germany to escape conscription and war.

With that wave of German immigrants and refugees, those that occupied the land had much fear about them ruining life as they new it. Newly-arrived German males age 16 and older were forced to take a loyalty oath to the British crown. The English oath was administered roughshod over the newly arriving boys and men, most of whom spoke only German upon their arrival. Apparently, a nominal and blind oath provided some comfort to those fearful residents already occupying the land.

As the Philadelphia harbor bells rang, signaling new arrivals, people gathered to greet them. Many gathered to welcome family or provide strangers with much needed assistance, knowing what it is like to leave one's home and arrive in a strange land with little or nothing. Others gathered to enlist indentured servants. Here is my most important question regarding service. Serving freely or serving under coercion -- which is the greater service? I submit that serving freely is greater. In this particular case, the free service of hospitality and welcoming outsiders is greater than enlisting indentured servants. In the shared scripture of The People of The Book -- Jews, Christians and Muslims -- a similar exhortation is repeated multiple times: "You must love foreigners because you were foreigners in Egypt." This service of what may be considered radical hospitality is a time-honored practice of Jews, Christians and Muslims. The humble practice is at the heart of every great faith worldwide. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Love because you were first loved. My ancestors, yearning to be free, wanted neither to be the cause of war as soldiers nor the tragic effects of war in its wanton destruction. This was at the heart of my ancestors' journeys in life. This is my heritage.

More recently, in relation to war and peace, my great-grandfather, during World War II, ran an alternative service camp for conscientious objectors. As for me, I was literally born into service. I was born in 1961 in Haiti, while my parents were serving as medical missionaries, a doctor and nurse, with Mennonite Central Committee. Mennonite Central Committee has long encouraged and empowered years-long terms of service, often overseas. For my Dad, this was also as an alternative service to military service.

In 1979, the year I graduated from high school, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. In response to this, President Jimmy Carter instituted draft registration of young men my age, ostensibly to send a message of military preparedness to Soviet leaders. I was in the first batch of young men required by U.S. law to register for the draft. However, the prospect of draft

registration conflicted with a higher law, my conscience and ultimate commitments. I could not and cannot, in good conscience, participate in war-making. As the clarity of my conscience emerged, I could find no way to register for the military draft, whose sole purpose is preparedness for war. My conscience also dictated that if I was to disobey an unconscionable law, then I was to openly take full responsibility for my actions while I worked to change such a law. I began by writing letters to Selective Service and my elected representatives. I may not have had been well-schooled -- yet, anyways -- on the politics of waging war or peace, but I was intimately familiar with my conscience and the legal duty that my young male peers and I faced. I was a teenager facing obedience to my conscience. This obedience came at the legal threat of up to five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.

I quickly learned that my war resistance is not dependent on geopolitical circumstances, political pendulums, or legal threats. I am already opposed to the next war. Unlike in the pragmatism of war, my enemy's enemy is not my friend. For me, war is the enemy. Nonetheless, the nearly 40 years since my initial confrontation with draft registration affords me a certain perspective as I have lived through a full cycle of history. While I was a skinny teenager facing taking on the United States government, the U.S. government was backing the soon-enough-to-be-notorious Osama bin Laden as a so-called "freedom fighter," leading the mujahadeen in Afghanistan against Soviet occupation. Of course, our support of Osama bin Laden, our enemy's enemy, turned out to be a deadly lesson in the futility of weaponizing violent radicals in the vain hope that it won't blowback in further violence on virtually all fronts. Today's "freedom fighter" is tomorrow's terrorist. Today's war seeds tomorrow's terrorist. Gandhi spoke frequently of the seamless connection of means and ends. War IS terrorism. How can we expect it to produce anything else -- with it many "means" and "ends"? In the end, I cannot view warmaking as service to this country, or any country for that matter, certainly not to humanity as a whole. I find warmaking incompatible with Jesus' call to love our enemies and to be peacemakers, the children of God.

In speaking with hundreds of Americans over the years about draft registration resistance, I have found that people's objections to my objections are of two basic types. One type of response is basically that draft registration is such a minimal requirement that it isn't worth much fuss. If this is the case, then why don't we just get rid of draft registration, without much fuss? The other type of response is about the utter graveness of our warmaking, and usually something about our national doody. If war is so grave, perhaps the concerns around someone refusing to go postal should receive more thoughtful and consequential consideration. To add insult to injury, in a surreal show of moral farce, war apologists routinely cite "necessary evil" as their moral foundation. This is not the God I serve. Straddling these two poles of minimal and supreme concern, are the tired questions that are asked pacifists, such as: "What would you do if someone was raping your grandmother in the ally?" I learned to answer such questions with: "I'd register for the draft." If their perplexity persisted, they might suggest that I go back to Russia (where I've never been) or indicated their inclination to see me face time in jail; presumably, so I am not around to not protect them.

Mean while, back in 1980, soon after winning the presidential election, Ronald Reagan broke his campaign promise to end draft registration. His campaign rhetoric about getting the government off the backs of people rang hollow, like a hollow bullet to my heart. The media wanted to do a story on this broken promise and how it affected the young men subject to the law, particularly those opposed to it. As it turned out, while there were millions of nonregistrants quietly in

violation of the law, I was the only local public nonregistrant that they could track down, and I soon found myself highlighted in various media for years to come.

To make a long story shorter, in 1983, I was indicted for failure to register -- I prefer *refusal* to register. In 1986, I was tried and convicted. My indiscriminate honesty more than compensated for their lack of investigatory skills. I served 107 days in the federal Community Corrections Center in Detroit, served two years probation, and served 200 hours of community service. I can't help but note, today, since the theme is "service," that the solution to my singular failure was to rip me from my community in order to integrate me back into my community. Plus, the court had to bean-count community service that you couldn't have stopped me from serving anyway.

Of course, there were larger forces at work. I, and a select few others, had to be made examples of. I, for One, am proud of the example I served. In the case of *The United States of America vs. Daniel A. Rutt*, there was a focus on my failure/refusal. In the meantime, I had finished college, got married, finished graduate school, had a son, and got a job. I went on to serve in a public health career of almost two decades. I even got a national award from the feds for my work in health promotion -- thanks for noticing, U.S. of A. For the last 16 years, I have run my own business promoting social justice.

I do not consider my time imprisoned or countless hours engaging in war resistance as any great burden. In fact, I consider this as service to my country and humanity. I do suspect that most any person who did a tour of active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan has suffered more than I. Unfortunately, war is replete with suffering. Of course, suffering is of no great inherent value. Nonetheless, whatever we *willingly* suffer for is a good measure of what we truly value. I hope that more Americans, whether male or female, young or old, will volunteer to put more skin in the game and resist war in any way they can. I believe that the cost of freedom is found in not killing, rather than killing. As General Patton so infamously stated, "No dumb bastard ever won a war by going out and dying for his country. He won it by making some other dumb bastard die for his country."

It is impossible for me to separate my service from my conscience. Conscience is that small still voice that emanates from the foundation of our existence, that calls us, at the risk of trademark infringement, to be all that we can be. My war resistance is deeply rooted in following Jesus, The Prince of Peace. The Jesus I follow was executed as an enemy of the state. He was executed at the behest of the religious elite. Today, the religious elite dutifully save themselves and their clan, more faithfully blessing warmakers than counseling their youth to resist war, more *conveniently* blessing warmakers than counseling their youth to resist war. The first wave of martyrs in early Christendom were men who refused military service. The broader wave of martyrs were Jesus followers who refused idolatry, the literal and figurative "pinch of incense on the altar" to Caesar.

For me, draft registration is that "pinch of incense on the altar" of the state. When it comes to military service, in the great U.S.A., there is no "one nation under God." When it comes to military service, The United States of America *is* God. Specifically, The United States of America, does not recognize ANY Constitutional right to refuse military service for ANY reason, including conscience or freedom of religion. As we all know, the U.S. Constitution provides for many rights, rights that cannot be infringed upon by the state. There are many constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably

assemble, freedom to petition for redress of grievances, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, and the right to equal protection under the law, among others. These are often referred to as natural rights or God-given rights. Such rights define the character of a state, and place limits on its sovereignty, recognizing a power greater than itself. The United States of America, does not recognize ANY natural or God-given right to refuse military service for ANY reason. If you are surprised by this, so was I. I count this as the singular lesson that I learned in my draft registration resistance. This sad and idolatrous reality was unmasked only by a federal judge citing a Supreme Court case in a legal opinion rejecting my motion for dismissal on the basis of religious freedom. Fortunately, I have found that God's grace extends further than legislative grace or constitutional provision of this republic. I strongly suspect that tens of millions of Americans of faith recognize that holy obedience sometimes requires civil disobedience.

My male ancestors age 16 plus who arrived to this land so many years ago were forced to swear a loyalty oath to the government, even though most didn't even speak the language in which the oath was administered. This didn't even seem to matter to government officials. Why is this? I suspect that the nominal and incomprehensible oath was a "pinch of incense on the altar," a ritual form of national worship needed by a resident populace afraid of strangers. The minimal content of the oath served as a safe and surefire way to maximize compliance and minimize resistance. Who would get back on the boat and return across the sea because they had to mouth or sign an incomprehensible swearing. Who would not submit their name and basic information to the Selective Service System? Well, most young men do not register when they first become legally required. Most young men, hoping to go somewhere, register when they need to secure a driver's license, or when they reach the shore of an education, needing a student loan.

I suspect that the ritual obedience of a "pinch of incense on the altar" may be more important than an actually functioning, fair and equitable system of potential conscription. Conspicuously absent from the Selective Service annual report is the noncompliance rate with the requirement for registrants to update their address (within 10 days) every time they move. Every observant person knows that 18-25 year-old men move a lot. How many address updates do they get? How many address updates don't they get? Surely, this can be estimated, and certainly it matters if one actually cares about being able to effectively and fairly enlist young men in a potential draft. The noncompliance rate for initial registration is 8% for all 18-25 year-old men. I strongly suspect that the noncompliance with current address is much higher than noncompliance with initial registration; probably, in combination, high enough to blow a hole in any contention that draft registration is effective and fair. By the way, those young men not complying with address updates are subject to the same legal penalties of up to five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. In FY 2017, 184,051 names and addresses of suspected violators to initial registration were provided to the Department of Justice. Does it strike anyone else as odd that the names *and addresses* of suspected violators are forwarded? If the Selective Service System has the names and addresses of potential enlistees, what else do they need?

I contend that what Selective Service is largely after is your assent to civil obedience, participation in a national religion of warmaking, your "pinch of incense on the altar," if you will. This seems to be a better characterization of Selective Service's function than, in the case of a military draft, to "rapidly provide personnel in a fair and equitable manner." Oddly, if you find yourself a male age 26 or older, beyond the age requirement to register, and you failed to register, you could still run into trouble by being denied eligibility for federal student financial aid, federal job training, federal employment, or U.S. citizenship; yet, you may be in the clear if your can "show by a preponderance of evidence" that your failure to register was not knowing

and willful. Just don't be too conscientious; that is, until you have to prove that you were not conscientious. Apparently, the true crime is conscientiousness in not registering, more so than simply not registering. The selective prosecution of a few conscientious and public resisters while millions are noncompliant speaks volumes to this. Certainly, a system where obliviousness is excusable and objecting conscientiously is a crime is a system that distorts our nation's highest values. I don't object to Selective Service being shot full of holes regarding compliance. I do object to Selective Service dishonoring or punishing conscientiousness. As there is no way for a registrant to officially indicate any intent at conscientious objection, I would be very curious to see what would happen if conscientious objector status were a checkbox in the registration process. We might learn a lot about the state of conscientious objection in America. Of course, if Selective Service noncompliance is largely about non-conscientiousness, then I have to ask: What would such a level of non-conscientiousness say about what we might be fighting for and who might be fighting for it?

The draft registration system cannot account for true conscientiousness. The draft registration system cannot muster enough compliance, conscientious or not, to claim fairness and equitability. The honorable course of action, in both cases, is to end draft registration.

In truth, the actual practice of draft registration ignores conscientious objection. While there is no apparent constitutional right to refuse military conscription, there are some legislative provisions for what are called conscientious objectors. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to indicate conscientious objection during the current draft registration process. This is objectionable to many conscientiously opposed to war. Somewhat oddly, the only legal way to make such a claim is to submit to a system, the Selective Service System, whose sole purpose is preparing for war, which you must reject completely. Plus, conscientious objector status is only possible as a military service classification, if and when a draft may occur. The longer a registrant is unrecognized as conscientiously opposed to war, the further the objection. Further, conscientious objector status can only be recognized for those who are opposed to all wars. If you in good conscience object to whatever current war in which you are subject to serve, this is oddly irrelevant. You could, in fact, turn out to conscientiously object to every actual war that comes down the pike in your lifetime and this is deemed irrelevant if you are not opposed to every theoretical war (or past war). This renders conscientious objection to a meaningless idea for what is perhaps the vast bulk of being conscientiously opposed to war. Finally, there is no real mechanism to truly count or officially value the service of conscientious objectors, meaning that men will be drafted until the military need is met, whether ten or ten million men have conscientious objection. The service of a conscientious objector is superfluous to the determining aim of the Selective Service System. This itself is offensive to many persons of conscience opposed to war-making. Let's end the criminalization of conscience.

In truth, the actual practice of warmaking habitually runs roughshod over international law and human rights. The promise of some possible future alternative service as a noncombatant is little comfort to my conscience, and of many others. In a warring world, the distinction between combatants and noncombatants offers fantastical sanitization rather than actual sanity. The fact is that across time and across a myriad of modern armed conflicts, over ten so-called "noncombatants" are killed for every "combatant." The first casualty of war is the truth; most of the rest are noncombatants. My duty is to oppose war, not escape military service. This is my service to humanity. This service is regardless of combatant status. Plus, the best way to serve warriors happens to be ending war.

In the age of terrorism, some will claim that we live in new era of war, not subject to the old rules of war. We do live in a different time than in the 1980's, the decade when draft registration was initiated. I can testify to a profound shift toward anti-war sentiment since then. During the first Gulf war, in the early 1990's, I never felt so isolated as an American, confronting palpable resistance even from liberals. When the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, our local peace network, the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition, initiated weekly Sunday demonstrations at busy intersections around town. These demonstrations for peace and against war occurred weekly for 15 years (and continue twice each month). In the early years, most of the feedback we had from passing motorists was angry yelling, middle fingers, and expletives flying. Over the years, this angry response has become rare, perhaps a couple a week, and the overwhelming positive responses are represented by hundreds of "honks for peace," peace signs and thumbs up. Americans in the heartland of Ohio are tired of war and welcome peace. Draft registration is a relic of ages past. Why have draft registration when even the military cites no scenarios where they would want a draft?

One issue at the heart of draft registration and military conscription is what is the proper role of women in warmaking and peacemaking. I am delighted to see that women serve as 5 of the 11 commissioners. Surely, it is women who should determine what is the proper role of women, in this case, concerning warmaking and peacemaking. In my lifelong work across a wide range of social justice movements, I have found women to be the most reliable and most inspiring leaders and laborers for social justice. I strongly suspect that women will take up the mantle of even greater war resistance if they become subject to military conscription. I take inspiration to serve as a war resister from Julia Ward Howe. She, most famously known as the composer of the *Battle Hymn of The Republic*, was the founder of Mother's Day, originally a day of war resistance. She issued this Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870:

*Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender to those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."*

*From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm! Disarm!" The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.*

*As men have forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his time the sacred impress not of Caesar, but of God.*

*In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.*

I would much prefer entrusting my conscience and fate to such "a general congress of women without limit of nationality," rather than the currently constituted National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.

Perhaps somewhat ironic, given my heritage, Germany now has a constitutional right to conscientious objection while the United States does not. When Germany ended conscription in 2011, the majority of those serving were conscientious objectors, and the debate had shifted from conscience to whether they should give up a huge pool of cheap labor. I believe that forced national service is incongruent with our nation's highest ideals. I believe that volunteerism is at the core of authentic service. I suspect that lowering our ideals by forcing service is a poor way to nurture true service. Let us lead by example. This is why I am here today. If you want to gauge both the heart and the cutting edge of service in this country and for this country, look to those who volunteer, willingly, without pay, to live out their deepest values. This is the clearest view of our highest ideals incarnate, that service, that work, which cannot be bought and sold.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Commission. From your bios, I can see that you are exemplary leaders in service. Unfortunately, I think that you may have an impossible job. I appreciate that Selective Service is technically considered under civilian control. Still, I can't help but notice that both Selective Service and this Commission are heavily represented by persons from the military or traditional national security apparatus. This does not fairly represent America in the civilian service necessary to make for peace in the world. Also, about 4 in 10 Americans are persons of color, including many of those in the military. Why is this Commission even whiter than the overly white Congress who appointed it? This is not a service to America, and raises the question of whether white supremacy is part and parcel to your work. In tandem, the Commission's overwhelmingly militarized representation and unduly whiteness, inspires little confidence that your recommendations can represent America. Perhaps it would be more honest to call this Commission an Omission. I suspect that this failure is rooted in the failure and cowardice of Congress to deal with draft registration in a changing world, that is, a world that recognizes women as equals. Congress punted on the politically unpopular choices of just ending draft registration or expanding it to women. Instead, Congress kicked the can down the road for a couple of years by creating a Commission to address this question for them. Unfortunately, This Congress-created Commission is so couched in generic service rhetoric that it is hamstrung in dealing straightforwardly with the singular issue that triggered its creation: draft registration. Until the Commission owns up to addressing the issue of draft registration as its core reason for existing, any hopes of sparking a national conversation on service will be sparks falling on damp firewood. Further complicating the credibility of the Commission is the tightly controlled and choreographed public meetings in conjunction with severely limited open public testimony. A responsive democratic process would have begun with generous opportunities for open public testimony, and then using this input to shape additional "invited" testimony. This may already be too late to remedy. The chasm between the nature of "invited" testimony and uninvited testimony betrays a characterization of the Commission's work to date as democratic or representative. In my years of public service, both as a community planner and as a citizen participant in many public forums, I think that it is fairer to characterize the Commission's public meetings to date more as "dog and pony shows" than as an open and responsive democratic process. For this Commission's work to claim legitimacy, there is a lot of changes that need to be made. Lastly, having to make FOIA requests to find out about the basic public functioning of the Commission does not bode well for a culture of transparent, accountable public service by the Commission. I hope that you have found worthwhile input in my testimony to move toward a peace-loving

democracy in which every one of us finds ample opportunities, free of compulsion, for self-sacrificial service for the good of all.

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Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029, Box #63

Arlington Va, 22202

Attn: RFI COMMENT - Docket # 05-2018-01

#### ISSUE OF AUMF IMPACTING MILITARY, NATIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

1. July 24, 2017, Scott Roehm of the Constitution Project attended a House Foreign Affairs Committee Meeting convened by Representatives Ed Royce and Eliot Engel on "Authorization for the Use of Military Force and Current Terrorist Trends". In a published letter, Scott Roehm identifies the Constitution Project as committed to "...restoring the division of war powers set up in the Constitution which makes clear that Congress is the branch of government vested with the power and responsibility to declare war". He goes on to describe the ways Congress has failed in this responsibility including ways in which both President Obama and President Trump have "...stretched the 2001 AUMF far beyond the breaking point". A coalition of human rights, civil liberties and faith groups support the Projects' effort to revive the Constitutional intent of the role of Congress and the need to rein in the Executive Branch.
2. On September 26, 2017, Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois reinforces this effort as she states in an Opinion Editorial of the Wall Street Journal, "...US troops need to know that they have the moral support and legal backing of their country, Congress hasn't given them that". Further she states, "...by ignoring the AUMF for 16 years, all of us, not just lawmakers, fail to do their part of the shared responsibility of being an American citizen".
3. The Women's March on the Pentagon, scheduled for October 20/21 2018, will be comprised of American Citizens who are taking that responsibility. They oppose the draft for men and women. They declare the draft is a harsh burden on the poor, while benefiting the wealthy and powerful. Congressional abdication of responsibility in deciding on war, deprives citizens of vital representation and moral/legal protection.

#### ISSUE OF POVERTY AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS , EROSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. In the UN report on EXTREME POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, presented at the 38th session of the Human Rights Council June 18 to July 6, 2018, in one of the opening statements cites: "The United States now has one of the lowest rates of intergenerational mobility of any of the rich countries. Zip codes, which are usually reliable proxies for race and wealth are tragically reliable predictors of a child's future employment and income prospects. High child and youth poverty rates perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of poverty very effectively and ensure that the American Dream is becoming the American Illusion. The equality of opportunity, which is prized in theory is a myth, especially for minorities and women but also for many middle class white workers."
2. Try thinking of your children or grandchildren being forced into Military Conscription, as you ponder these facts documenting the neglect of veterans: A) Twenty veterans die by suicide EACH DAY, a 22% higher rate than matched civilian rate (according to the Veteran's

Administration) B) over 40,000 veterans are homeless on any given night according to the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development. Over 15,000 veterans stay in places that are not suitable for human habitation. C) 1,465,807 live under the official US poverty level (Census Bureau), almost 1.5 million veterans require benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program....previously known as Food Stamps.....currently being slashed in funding. D) Over 370,000 veterans are unemployed according to the US Dept of Labor. Unemployment is higher for younger veterans between the ages of 22 and 34 than civilians. E) according to the Veteran's Administration, there are 318,000 appeals of veterans benefits pending nationwide with an average wait time of over 2 years.

3. A constantly expanding Defense budget and concomitant slashing of social welfare programs along with a taxing structure that benefits the wealthy will continue to generate severe social/economic inequalities.
4. Before considering any "career", "volunteer" or "draft" pathway in Military/National/Public service we need to acknowledge we have a government that has gone Rogue. We have to acknowledge the issues, as Smedley Butler, a US Marine Corps General and two time winner of the Medal of Honor who wrote War is a Racket in 1935, and as President Eisenhower reminded us in his warning about the Military Industrial Complex in his Farewell address in January, 1961. We need to inform ourselves of the true nature of a country that spends more on war, less on social needs, and consistently violates human rights through militarization of its police, mass incarceration/school to prison pipeline, indifference to youth seeking higher education, policies ignoring women's rights not to mention indifference to refugees displaced by militarism and issues of climate chaos/environmental decline ignored.....and sadly....there is even more. We need to ask/demand to understand where is our Democracy.

Submitted by: Arlene Hickory, 13425 Elm Road, Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044. [a23h23@yahoo.com](mailto:a23h23@yahoo.com). 847-922-1587

*Arlene Hickory 6/28/18*

"War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today."

(John F. Kennedy)

Statement to NCMNPS Public Meeting, Jacksonville, May 17, 2018

Mark Peterson

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One challenge that the Commission faces is to deal with two views about women in the military. One is that keeping military women from combat zones and combat assignments is a form of job discrimination. The other is that putting women in danger in these ways is a cowardly form of abuse. These views have implications for whether both women and men volunteer to join the military.

I already have written to the Commission about evangelical Christian denominations that have studies expressing concern about sending women into danger and into combat. These denominations include about 7 – 10% of the people in the United States. I have the web addresses for the studies with me today. I believe that some Orthodox Jewish groups and Muslim groups have similar concerns.

Knowing how the Commission should respond to such concerns is challenging. I see several possible responses, each with limitations. For example, the Defense Department could update conscientious objection policy (DoDI 1300.06) to explicitly include military people who come to believe that women should not be sent into danger. The Academies and War Colleges could train officers to support people who chose to join the military when they were quite young, but who later come to question military policy about women after learning about issues raised in the denomination studies. Routinely providing information about these studies to evangelical girls and young women being recruited into the military and into military-supported programs like JROTC could be part of the informed consent procedure. A form of military support branch could be designed that allows participants to remain in the U.S. with no risk of overseas assignments. Such alternatives could provide starting points for conversation.

I have done human resources projects with the military, am an established scholar in the field of international cultural diversity and have worked with Chaplain Endorsers and religious leaders on matters related to women in the military. I would be glad to consider assisting the Commission on such topics.

# **Don't Force Women to Register for the Draft, Dump the Draft Entirely**

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/312/180/604/>

*Petition to Congress initiated on Care2.com by Julie Mastrine, April 29, 2016  
25,497 signatories as of April 27, 2018*

We the undersigned urge you to vote NO on the National Defense Authorization Act's amendment that would force women to sign up for the Selective Service, and to introduce legislation that would end the draft for both sexes.

While it is unfair and sexist that only men must register for the draft -- women should be allowed to serve in combat roles just as men are -- being forced to go to war is immoral no matter your sex.

While forcing women to register for the draft may make things equal, bodily autonomy should be taken into account and military service should be based on choice. Our bodies are not communal property, and whether you're male or female, citizens should NEVER be compelled to fight in a war they may disagree with.

Many people say forcing everyone to register for the draft will cause Americans to think twice about going to war. But, as writer Lucy Steigerwald points out, remember what happened during the Vietnam war: anger over the draft helped to end the war only AFTER 60,000 Americans and 2 million Vietnamese died. "You don't stop the runaway truck of U.S. foreign policy by throwing a man in front of it, and you definitely don't stop it by throwing a man and a woman, just to make things equal," Steigerwald writes.

Please vote NO on this amendment to the NDAA, and introduce legislation ending the draft for both sexes.

Thank you.

**Petition: Don't Force Women to Register for the Draft, Dump the Draft Entirely**

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/312/180/604/>

**April 18, 2018**

**Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) Peace, Earthcare, and Social Concerns committee** considered the questions on the website of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service, including Selective Service System (SSS) registration and the rights of Conscientious Objectors (COs).

Here are thoughts for your consideration:

- There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. SSS registration should be discontinued.
- If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as a Conscientious Objector.
- Penalties for noncompliance should be proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disabilities, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.
- In regard to Question 4. *What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?* - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies.
- The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.

September 20, 2018

To the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service;

My name is Kathleen Hernandez and I appreciate your courtesy in hearing my opinion in regards to Selective Service Registration.

A military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. By the United States increasing participation in military, national, and public service to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation we are expanding militarism in civil society and denying the use of the rule of law in place of perpetual war at home and abroad. I would support voluntary public service that provides community workers to uplift and better those communities through positive non-violent means to be determined by the communities themselves.

It is imperative that Congress abolishes the Selective Service System. I do not support any kind of draft, and I myself as a mother, grandmother and certificated teacher will do everything in my power to inform others to resist draft registration whether it be my daughter a registered nurse or a neighbor's son who just received a letter demanding that her son register.

Draft registration is not an act of free will and serves up young people as potential canon fodder. Currently, denying young males access to federal aide such as student grants and loans so they can attend a college or university when they don't register for the draft registration, charging them with a felony for refusing to register, or sending them threatening letters telling them that if they don't register they will not be able to get a state drivers license is equivalent to holding a gun to their head. It is morally wrong for the United States of America, land of the free to force anyone to sign up to be called to war or any other misnomer erroneously called "voluntary service".

Many young folks comply against their will fearing the consequences of being charged with a felony for not wanting to sign ones life away, and or relinquishing their free will as a result of financial need. If a military recruiter doesn't get you to enlist for the poverty draft – Selective Services will make sure you make the poverty selective service list regardless. Of course, those that have the means to be supported financially through higher education may choose not to register and not be prosecuted, as the chances are truthfully slim to none of being charged with non-compliance. Those that are financially solvent are more likely to do so. But most of our country, the 99% are forced to register if they want to get a higher education.

Requiring women to register would not justify the means of putting that gun to young people's heads. Education should not hang on the balance of registering for the Selective Service. Education should be a fully funded human right in a civilized society. Conscription is wrong at any age. Being young should not entitle one's country to demand a pound of flesh, to have to risk your life for your country. Compulsory service is not service. It is slave labor at the will of the power holder. This is not democratic whatsoever and in fact is archaic practices of oppression.

Your commission asks **'Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? In the words of Elliott Adams, a Viet Nam veteran paratrooper who enlisted;** "Yes, service (real service, not military "service") is essential to our country and any democracy. It helps citizens feel the connection between individual acts and the nation. Being involved in building the nation can become part of a life long understanding that democracies require (require not just allow) citizens to be active in directing the nation to be, or to become, a democracy. We, as a nation, desperately need a revitalization of that vital connection of the people to forming their government. If it has to be compulsory we have already lost the battle. Something is wrong if people don't understand that democracy is cooperation, it is people working together for the greater good."

Sincerely;

Kathleen Hernandez  
PO Box 1084 Topanga, CA 90290  
[hernandezkathleen@hotmail.com](mailto:hernandezkathleen@hotmail.com)  
310-339-1770

**10 April 2019**

**2530 Crystal Drive**

**Suite 1000, Box #63**

**Arlington, Virginia 22202**

**Dear Selective Service Hearing Members:**

**Selective Service Hearing: Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans? – Arguments against expansion**

1. The House of Representatives has not had a public hearing on women in combat since 1979. The Senate has not considered the issue since 1991 (except a brief meeting with officials from the Pentagon, February of 2016.)
2. Obama's Defense Secretary Ashton Carter unilaterally decided military women should be eligible for combat arms on the same involuntary basis as men. His objective was social policy (equality) and not the abiding importance of military readiness.
3. Marine Commandant General Joseph Dunford requested exceptions for Infantry and Special Ops Forces, based on tests conducted 2012 through 2015. The tests showed "that in simulated close combat tasks, all-male units outperformed gender-mixed teams 69% of the time."
4. SecDef Carter denied General Dunford's request, despite test evidence indicating "gender-mixed units were less lethal during simulated combat missions attacking the enemy."
5. Texas District Judge Gary H. Miller on February 22, 2019, that the Selective Service system is unconstitutional in that it requires only males to register. The Judge used an equal protection standard because the previous administration insisted on changing the long-standing rules on women in combat.

The Supreme Court (1981, Rostker vs. Goldberg) had ruled Congress could exempt women from Selective Service registration because Women were not assigned to direct ground combat units. Judge Miller overturned the Supreme Court decision, based on SecDef Carter's rationale that women could handle combat as well as men. (Someone should have suggested SecDef Carter watch "Band of Brothers.")

6. Congress could redeem itself in the eyes of the American public by reviewing the policy changes of the Obama Administration and the research produced by the Marines, documenting three years of testing. The House and Senate Armed Services Committees could conduct public hearings to ensure all testimonies are presented.

7. The primary mission of American military forces is to defend the country and its interests. The Selective Service is designed to provide necessary manpower for combat operations mobilized during a major military emergency. There are many areas in the military where women have served their country. Combat requires strength and endurance; it should be limited to men. Most women cannot meet combat arms standards; most men can.

The Military should not be subject to equal opportunity/employment standards as the Civilian sector is. Not everyone should serve just because they might want to do so. The Military has medical standards that are disqualifying for enlistment. Social experiments should be kept in the Civilian sector and not creep into the Military, where life and death outcomes depend on male strength and endurance (Audie Murphy, one of the most decorated American soldiers of WW II, was turned down by the Marine Corps and the Navy. The Army took him, and history was made.)

May the Lord give you wisdom to make a just, deliberative decision that fulfills the military mission. (We do not need to risk our military women to capture by radical Islamists because they are not as strong to fend off the attackers. We have seen what ISIS has done to women in Syria.)

### **Will the Commission Recommend Co-Ed Conscription for Military or National Service?**

In 2017 Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain established the "National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service." It was authorized

to do a three-year study, \$45 million. In February of 2019 the commission published its first five-page memorandum, assuming the following:

a) "Women would be equally effective in combat arms units--such as, infantry if a draft were necessary, and"

(Lt Col Oliver North might have some interesting information to add to the commission's data.)

b) "The government should be empowered to deprive young people of personal freedom for reasons other than national defense."

(The Declaration of Independence declares "that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Article 1, Section 8, of the U. S. Constitution states the powers of Congress. Forcing young people into National and/or Public Service is not under the jurisdiction of Congress. Also, Amendment X states "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.")

(The preamble to the Constitution states "WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.")

(Government by the People for the People means Liberty for the People. No one should consider depriving our young people of the liberty to choose their paths in life under a government mandated National and Public Service program.)

The National Commission's February Staff Memorandum goes on to suggest ways to ensure compliance: punishments, sanctions, ineligibility for government benefits or employment, fines or imprisonment. "a well-structured mandatory service program would require a system to monitor participation." --page 5.

(This coercion is not Liberty; it is Tyranny. The final statement of The Declaration of Independence states "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." Our Founding Fathers (56 men) signed the Declaration, willing to risk all for Liberty. The torch of liberty must be passed from one generation to another, or it will be extinguished.)

I do hope you will consider the sacrifices of our Founding Fathers and subsequent generations and preserve Liberty by determining a mandatory National and Public Service program is not necessary for a free people.

Sincerely,

*H. Ruth Glenn*

H. Ruth Glenn

(Mrs. Thomas G. Glenn)

13997 W. Baker Place

Lakewood, Colorado 80228

To: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000, Box #63  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
25 April 2019



sojourners

Re: Docket 05-2018-01  
Selective Service Hearing: Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans?  
—Arguments **against** expansion

Dear Commission members,

With the recent decision to open combat positions in the U.S. armed forces to women, the morality and rights of religious freedom around Selective Service registration have returned for public scrutiny in public hearings, in the courts, and in Congress. While much of the debate has focused on issues of gender—will young women be required to register?—the problems with draft registration are extensive and worthy of more thorough consideration.

It always has been the responsibility of churches, faith communities, and pastors to serve as stewards and shepherds of conscience. The renewed interest in draft registration and the possibility of a mass registration of young women provide a perfect opening to initiate or deepen these discussions.

Sojourners, a Christian evangelical organization, has a long history of promoting a thoughtful and intelligent U.S. foreign policy built on the principles of peace, diplomacy, communication, civilian solidarity across national lines, reconciliation, restorative justice, and responding to those in need. Beginning with our anti-war efforts in the 1970s, we have brought together powerful allies who shared our belief that our nation needs to re-orient our foreign policy from unilateralism and militarism to multilateralism, cooperation, and shared responsibility. Drawing from the language and values of faith, we have successfully convinced key faith constituencies that issues like how we address terrorism, conflict prevention, and broader foreign policy concerns should be treated as “moral values” issues.

Sojourners addresses the questions on Selective Service with three key points:

**1. Selective service registration impedes religious liberty and freedom of conscience.** Sojourners fully supports and recognizes the right of individual conscientious objection to bearing arms and the right to be free of coerced participation in militarism and war. Sojourners supports the total disestablishment of the Selective Service System, including elimination in personnel and functions. Short of this, Sojourners supports allowing for self-identification as a conscientious objector at the point of registration as a key component of defending religious liberty.

Sojourners believes that in an age of continued war and terrorism, which dramatically affect civilian populations, every Christian must faithfully consider conscientious objection.

For many people of faith and people of conscience, questions around Selective Service registration are not new, and, ethically speaking, nothing is different now that women are considered as part of the equation. For many, the questions around Selective Service registration have long been ones of preparation for war, militarization of our communities, and coercion of individual conscience. Despite attempts to trivialize registration (“It’s just registration, it’s not the draft”), the primary purpose of registration is to be prepared for war. Lawmakers, past presidents, and the Supreme Court have all affirmed this position.

Gifts to Sojourners, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.  
No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.

A central tenet of the Christian's profession of faith is the proclamation of a Gospel-inspired and nonviolent peace, capable of engendering lasting trust among nations. Religious leaders appeal to the Christian faithful and to "all those of good will," to use the weapons of active nonviolence to confront and banish "whatever might endanger peace" and "transform all into witnesses of truth, justice, and love." The role of the government is not only to provide the proper material welfare of their people but also to guarantee them the fairest gift of peace.

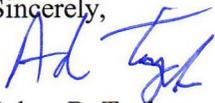
In accord with nonviolence as an authentically Christian and human mandate and practice, Sojourners fully supports and recognizes a right of individual conscientious objection to bearing arms. With other Christian leaders we state in the strongest possible terms, "it is our clear duty, therefore, to strain every muscle in working for the time when war can be completely outlawed" (Pope John XXIII, *Gaudium et Spes*). Armed or militarized response to conflict—even extreme violence—is, in most cases, an ineffective, outmoded, wasteful, and illegitimate act. In accord with nonviolence as an authentically Christian and human mandate and practice, Sojourners fully supports and recognizes a right of individual conscientious objection to bearing arms and appeals for the total disestablishment of the Selective Service System, including the elimination of personnel and functions.

**2. Selective service registration in the United States is out-of-step with the rest of the world and is fiscally irresponsible.** Fewer than a third of countries currently have a military draft; most exclude women, according to Pew Research Center's April 2019 report. The U.S. is one of 23 countries where the military draft is authorized but not currently implemented. In addition, the SSS budget of \$25 million is not only insufficient to meet its current mandate, but the whole war architecture under which it was built 100 years ago is outdated, leaving the U.S. more vulnerable in the event of a national emergency, rather than less.

**3. Civilian mobilization in the event of a national emergency should be overseen by civilian agencies, not the Department of Defense.** Investing in civilian-based defense models based on CBD policies will provide greater social resilience, increased public compliance, and is more fiscally responsible. This model of post-military weapons systems does not rely on military preparedness or weaponry. Civilian-based defense applies the power of society itself to deter and defend against internal usurpations, foreign invaders, and national emergencies. The weapons are psychological, social, economic, and political. They are wielded by the general population and the civil institutions of the society. (See Sweden's 2018 "If Crisis or War Comes" public information strategies; "Civilian Based Defense System: New Approach—Polish, Lithuanian and Ukrainian Experience" by Mariusz Maszkiewicz, 2015.)

Sojourners rejects the current framing that the religious response to women joining combat forces and a massive expansion of Selective Service registration can be artificially divided into conservative and liberal responses. The true issue at stake is religious liberty, freedom of conscience, and the right to be free of coerced participation in militarism and war.

Sincerely,



Adam R. Taylor  
Executive director, Sojourners



Rose M. Berger  
Catholic Nonviolence Initiative/Sojourners

4) Peter Jesella, Vietnam-era veteran, joined Air Force rather than being drafted. Congress allocates funding, unless it is a national emergency. So if the commission was to strongly outline the justification for moving male-only registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and Congress did it's job and debated this in committee, on the floor in Senate, and House both the cost, and youth, adult input from across the nation would hopefully take place.

I believe the cost of moving registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, encouraging high schools to take primary led, gathering data feedback from youth reactions, feedback at 18<sup>th</sup> birthday could come from the DOD recruiting budget of one-billion dollars per year, because it would enhance better military recruiting, but also our nation's national security citizen awareness needs. The bill in 1979 per Congressional Budget Office projected an AmeriCorps like program expanding to 1 million youth per year would cost a few billion dollars in new funding, which Congress often seems unwilling to support.

However, with youth between 17 and 18 discussing the civic values of AmeriCorps like programs, wanting to participate, but unable; do to lack of funding, if these youth could form a new voting block on this policy issue to target members of Congress that are unwilling to fund the billions needed, supporting candidates that do, and showing some success, I believe the next Congress would be more agreeable towards doing a detailed cost-benefit analysis on expanding AmeriCorps to the goal of one-million youth per year of service.

When President Obama gave his first speech to Congress, he called for legislative enhancements to AmeriCorps, its department, the Corporation for National and Community Service. A Democratic Congress quickly passed these enhancements into law, however without any additional funding. Six months later when funding requests were reviewed, a very small increase passed, due to lack of strong support from the Obama Administration, leadership in Congress. If the commission were to strongly recommend moving registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday for this cost-effective one-year discussion on citizen service, Congress might try to do this, without spending much money. If youth express in these one-year debates, 18<sup>th</sup> birthday feedback, the desire for expanding contracted community service, are willing to vote for candidates willing to fund, I believe it will show how American democracy is again on the path towards greatness.

**Thank you**

**Peter Jesella, [jesella@sonic.net](mailto:jesella@sonic.net), twitter @pjesella & @ncmnps 707 838-9841**

**May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 Oral statement to 9-12 AM Hearings insert after 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph, before 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, added on comments spoken. PJ**

**This one-year conversation for a #YouthWakeUpCall to service in #EveryZipCode, mainly in High Schools would force “opposition culture” to this new Law to have to target also High Schools, local every zip code educational districts about this spark of “Points of Light” along with targeting the Congress, Federal Governments priority on this significant but cost-effective policy change of youth registration at 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**This one-year civic education talk on service, request at 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of yes, no, maybe to serious commitment, would be the most cost-effective “New pipeline to Service fostering critical skills/thinking processes towards helping to Bridge the Military/Civilian divide.**

**To me this on-ramp highway of required registration at 17<sup>th</sup> birthday of civic education learning highway, would “Spark” more “off-ramps” to service of all kinds of choices by each new generation year-after-year.**

**Registration at 17 birthday, as a New Law, would be the Federal catalyst for a complex choice of conversation topics, details towards service. However any youth 10 to 16 could pro-actively explore these multi-layered websites of education on civic values, civic service.**

**Peter Jesella May 16<sup>th</sup> [jesella@sonic.net](mailto:jesella@sonic.net) Thank you**

- 3) Peter Jesella, Vietnam-era veteran, joined Air Force rather than being drafted. In my reference to 1979, 96<sup>th</sup> Congress HR 2206, which in 1982 became HR 1730, I have focused on moving registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday for male consideration of patriotic service in its many different forms and missions.

This bill also proposed to include women in this on and off one-year discussion between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on values of a civic society through citizen service. When in December 2015 some media talked about young women and registration, I wrote a short essay in reply to these remarks, more focused on 17<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> issue, but also said on pros/cons of requiring women to register. Quote “Whatever role each individual woman plays in the military or combat, I hope is a transaction between each individual woman’s goals and the needs of a professional military.”

Moving to April 27, 2016 the House Committee on Armed Services was marking-up the 2017 Defense bill, Chairman Thornberry allowed Congressman Hunter to present his amendment “Draft America’s Daughters Act of 2016” to a recorded vote, expecting it would fail, but it passed 32 to 30 on a bipartisan vote. On May 17 Chairman of the Rules committee Pete Sessions stripped it from the DOD 2017 funding bill, saying he is “adamantly opposed to coercing America’s daughters to sign up for the Selective Service”. The power of one over 32 yeses. I also learned from mark-up meeting that the Chairman had requested a DOD review of Selective Service, report by July 2017.

Congressman Session’s include the question of women registration to this DOD review. In December 2016 the joint Senate House review of DOD budget agreed to fund this commission, because Senator McCain also removed Senate passed requirement for women to register. Compromise or delay your pick.

Regarding DOD review interim report was completed in March 2017, the House released in July 2017 the exact copy as a final report. This report said keep Selective Service and include women registration. House leadership than stated that would need to wait for the 2020 report from this commission. One year to go.

Thank you

Peter Jesella, [jesella@sonic.net](mailto:jesella@sonic.net), twitter @pjesella & @ncmnps 707 838-9841

1-4 PM May 15, 2019 2 Min. oral statement and supportis

- 2) Peter Jesella, Vietnam-era veteran, joined Air Force medical field rather than being drafted.

*Evidence*

This morning I commented on my disappointment that the Interim Report had no reference to the idea of moving initial registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday for an on and off one-year conversation on the commissions second mandate of, I quote: "increasing participation in military, national, and public service as a means to strengthen our nation". This bill also proposed that at 18<sup>th</sup> birthday basic feedback of yes, no, or maybe to "serious consideration of voluntary or contracted service would be required". Every year much realistic data would be gathered about the next voting age generations views on the "ethos" of our nation's wellbeing. Maybe allowed for consideration up to 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope the commission can get input from experts on this uncomfortable requirement.

Another critical consideration if this second mandate that Congress will consider is changing the name of the Selective Service System to better reflect its new mission. After 9/11 President Bush challenged Americans to perform two years of service, in Executive Order 13254 called for "Inventory of Federal Service Opportunities and Regulatory Barriers to Community and other service activities." He also had his staff create the "USA Freedom Corps Network".

Dated December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002, a White House letter from H. Christopher Bartolomucci stated: "On behalf of Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales, regarding the Selective Service System and Participatory Citizenship System" My suggested name change. This was the 1% reply from the 100 letters I sent to staff at the White House referencing above info on 13254 and USA Freedom Corps Network, old idea of moving registration to 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, and my name for replacing the Selective Service System, its primary mission, and so its title. In the early 1980's I obtain many more letters from the Reagan Administration about this 1979 bill and Congressman Leon Panetta's bill proposal like the commission's work, which died upon arrival, with no support from Reagan Administration, Democratic Leadership.

Thank You

Peter Jesella, [jesella@sonic.net](mailto:jesella@sonic.net), twitter @pjesella & @ncmnps 707 838-9841

September 4, 2018

To: The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
ATTN: RFI Comment—Docket 05-2018-01

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to have some input into your work.

First some general comments:

The violence of war is a denial of our common humanity. There are multiple nonviolent ways to resolve conflict and face oppression. We can and must live nonviolently to survive. As John F. Kennedy said before the United Nations on Sept. 25, 1961: "Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind"

The U.S. is fighting wars in multiple countries, has troops in over a hundred countries, has an ever increasing military budget (over \$700 billion for next year), and a huge national debt partly due to borrowing to pay for our wars.

Arnold J. Toynbee (1889 -1975), the British historian who wrote the 12-volume history on the rise and fall of civilizations said: "Militarism has been by far the commonest cause of the breakdown of civilizations " If Toynbee's analysis is correct, our runaway militarism threatens our future.

Some more specific comments:

A: Freedom of Religion is guaranteed in our Constitution in the First Amendment. Conscientious Objection to war is part of the religious belief of many people from many religious traditions. The United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Seeger*, 380 U.S. 163 (1965) ruled that one can also be a conscientious objector without a religious belief in a Supreme Being. The current Selective Service System discriminates against the religious freedom of those who have a conscientious objection to war:

1) The primary purpose of the Selective Service registration is to be prepared for war, so the system itself discriminates against conscientious objectors.

2) Failure to register is a felony. For those with religious beliefs that prohibit them from registering with the Selective Service System there are severe punitive consequences.

3) There is no place on the current Selective Service registration form to indicate one is a Conscientious Objector .

over

B. Currently the burden of fighting our wars falls disproportionately on the poor. Although we have no formal draft, our current situation is a "poverty draft".

**Recommendations:**

- 1) The Selective Service System currently in place should be eliminated. It violates the religious freedom of many since its purpose is to prepare for war.
  
- 2) If a mandatory system of service is considered, a civilian service option should be offered. This option could be modeled after the successful Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of 1932 to 1942 involving 3 million young men. Women could now be included. Benefits for any mandatory public service option should be the same for those who choose a military option. Our countries infrastructure is badly in need of repair and a modern day CCC could go a long way in remedying that. The military budget should support this work.
  
- 3) If the current system or any system of registration is maintained, the form should have a place to indicate one is a conscientious objector.
  
- 4) All discriminatory and punitive practices against conscientious objectors relative to any Selective Service System should be removed.
  
- 5) The Commission must ensure that the burden of fighting wars be equally distributed between rich and poor.

Respectfully,

Richard G. Van Dellen M.D.

Retired

211 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW Apt. 703

Rochester MN 55901

282-4565





Tom and Jeanne Gilmore  
2211 W Tonto Ridge Rd  
Prescott, AZ 86305

Sept 29, 2018

Dear Commission Members,

SUBJECT: / COMMENTS  
ABOLISH  
SELECTIVE SERVICE  
AND DRAFT  
REGISTRATION

As a concerned citizen and decorated Viet Nam Veteran (1970-71) with AF commendation/honorable discharge (AF68065297) I must submit my comments to you. I, and many dozens in my family and social network oppose the Selective Service System and especially the DRAFT Registration for the following reasons:

- 1) It weakens democracy because it is un-democratic
- 2) It does not allow concerned citizens to register as conscientious objectors
- 3) What about the question of women — with their present role in combat?
- 4) It is not necessary with an all-volunteer military
- 5) The punishments for non-registration are RACIST and govt "selective" 'criminal' prosecutions are unconstitutional

- 6) It violates religious freedom and separation of church and state by not recognizing C. Objectors.
- 7) It is a bad example to other nation-states or a good example to dictatorships that use conscription.
- 8) Again, it is racist and anti-poor people with a possible motive of taking away VOTING rights, driving rights as a punishment

I will oppose these unjust rules, dogmas and activities with all that I hold dear in our democracy and with all I shared while in Viet Nam — Please have faith and do away with this jailed system — and it is fitting that I write this at 100 years after w.w.I, another insane war that my father was forced into and as he told me just creates the conditions for more war.

Most determined,  
 [Sgt. Tom Gilmore]  
 USAF 1968-1972

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## Extending Selective Service registration to all Americans

- How does your organization view extending the Selective Service registration requirement to all Americans, particularly women? Does this perspective hold true across your membership?
  - *Selective Service should include all Americans regardless of gender.*
  - *A draft of these persons should not automatically be for combat units.*
  - *This perspective is shared across the membership.*
- Are there any circumstances under which your organization would support standing conscription, as opposed to the current system of a draft contingency?
  - *The organization would support that there would be circumstances the standing conscription would be better than the current system. Especially in an excessively large mobilization similar to WWII.*
  - *The quality of individuals matriculating into the military are better because they are a volunteer force. Any change in accession policy may be met with skepticism if those changes hamper the ability to join qualified personnel of appropriate character and physicality to meet the requirements of military service.*
  - *If recruiting efforts fail to fulfill mission, a draft or standing conscription may need to be instituted.*
- The Commission has heard from some communities that using the draft would have been appropriate to support the increased need for personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under what conditions would your organization support the use of the draft?
  - *The draft has not been necessary up to this point because services were meeting recruiting mission goals. At some point, they will identify critical failure if they do not increase manpower.*
  - *An all-volunteer force results in a better qualified team. If recruiting efforts fail to fulfill mission, a draft or standing conscription may need to be instituted.*
  - *Given the highly technical skill-sets required for some military occupational specialties (MOS), standing conscription may not bring aboard the skill-sets needed. Rather, there will be bodies in seats performing ineffectively.*
- With your unique perspective as veterans, spouses, family members, and members of the military community, are there any other issues you'd like to raise to the attention of the Commission?
  - *People exiting the military set the example for military service and resulting abilities (work skills, mental health, etc.). Military members are losing their tribe when they exit service and America needs to figure out how to be a tribe for our veterans (see Tribe by Sebastian Junger).*
  - *Increase technical skill certifications prior to separation (Corpsman become EMT-P, Electricians become Journeymen, etc.)*

## Any other question as it relates to the scope of the Commission's work:

- Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?
  - *Absolutely.*
- Are modifications to the selective service system needed?
  - *Yes, to include all Americans regardless of gender.*
- How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?
  - *Need to market to youth in their area (social media)*
  - *Increased Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs*

- *Encourage and promote ROTC programs (especially ROTC scholarships)*
- *College being paid for enlisted on active duty in the military (Forever GI Bill still follows service)*
- *In middle school, youth have already formed habits and opinions. In high school, these habits and opinions are difficult to change. Engage youth at an early developmental level to promote a sense of participation in something greater than themselves and a sense of community.*
- *Promote Community Service activity at all levels K-12 in schools. Community Service needs to start earlier*
- *Need an organized process for developing a sense of responsibility in youth from K-12*
- *Expand physical fitness, healthy eating, and portion control programs in youth*
- *Encourage team building events and programs like sports*
- **What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?**
  - *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) testing results vs MOS manpower needs.*
  - *Youth physical fitness in the general population*
  - *Drug abuse (gateway drugs, opioids, prescription, etc.)*
  - *Behavioral prescription medication/medical history*
  - *Criminal history*
- **Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?**
  - *Leadership, character building, skills development, educational opportunities, sense of self-worth, accomplishment, personal interaction skills, cultural diversity, and patriotism.*
- **Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?**
  - *A four-year mandatory requirement for civil service (military or other) would be welcomed if people meet qualifications.*
- **How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?**
  - *Need to market to youth in their area (social media)*
  - *Encourage and promote ROTC programs (especially ROTC scholarships)*
  - *College being paid for enlisted on active duty in the military (Forever GI Bill still follows service)*
  - *In middle school, youth have already formed habits and opinions. In high school, these habits and opinions are difficult to change. Engage youth at an early developmental level to promote a sense of participation in something greater than themselves and a sense of community.*
  - *Promote Community Service activity at all levels K-12 in schools. Community Service needs to start earlier*
  - *Need an organized process for developing a sense of responsibility in youth from K-12*

John S. Huyler, Jr.

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April 19, 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Dear Commissioners:

I am honored to be able to submit this letter. Thank you for your service.

Undoubtedly, although you may have been nominated or encouraged by others, each of you has volunteered to serve as a Commissioner because you hope "to ignite a national conversation around service and, ultimately, develop recommendations that will encourage every American to be inspired and eager to serve." Thank you for taking this on.

My years as a Naval Aviator and parent of a Millennial have inspired me to synthesize two recommendations that I am particularly grateful to be able to submit so near to the beginning of your three years of work.

- 1) the "ethos of service among American youth" that you seek can only be achieved through a non-coercive system that includes women (the majority of the population), and,
- 2) your focus must give equal standing to the three types of service that are reflected in your title: "military, national and public."

In Colorado, as in the majority of States, young men are automatically registered with the Selective Service as part of their applications for drivers' licenses at age 18. The current system is coercive because of its penalties for not registering and the lack of any choice about the kind of service to which each young man is then subject.

Currently, military service is not mandatory because there is no military draft. In today's registration process other forms of "national and public" service such as AmeriCorps, Teach for America and the Peace Corps are not even considered. And young women are excluded.

I have no doubt that a broader and less coercive approach would produce much better servants of the common good; that the ranks of the military would be adequately filled (as they are now); and that an ethos of public service would be advanced much more effectively by replacing the outdated Selective Service system with one designed according to the two recommendations above.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John S. Huyler, Jr.

**Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
1825 Upland Street  
Boulder, Colorado**

8 April 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

The Boulder, Colorado Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Meeting thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide its testimony regarding the matters of military and other public service. Our testimony is grounded in our belief that war is wrong, and that violence is not the way to obtain personal, national or international peace and security among peoples and nations.

We do instead believe in the peaceful prevention of violence and war. We seek to build peace and security through pursuing and sharing developments in health, sustainable environment, equality practices, and non-discrimination among all peoples, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. Security and peace is a condition that can only be achieved and must be shared between all parties, not something imposed by military force and the use of violence. Security is achieved when all parties can share in not being threatened by the other...it is a condition that lies between all parties.

To the matters of the Selective Service (draft) and Military Service of the United States:

1. We find that the current law requiring all males of draft age to register for military service should be eliminated.
2. We also find that the proposal that females should be included in the registration for military service should likewise not occur.
3. There should be no associated denials or limitations of public service opportunities and benefits (such as access to health care, education, admission or financial aid to attend universities, drivers' licenses, and any other social service benefits) based upon state, local or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service.
4. If the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated, a clear and easy process should be established for registrants and active duty or reserves to declare that they conscientiously object to military service. This personal declaration of conscientious objection should not be tied to a particular religious belief or membership in a religious organization. The only requirement should be a personal moral conscience that violence against others is wrong.

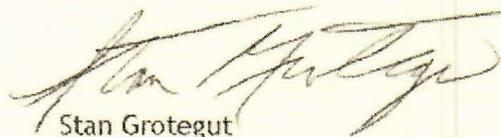
Overall, we find that the extreme militarization of the United States is destructive, creates enemies, and is counter-productive to the goal of world peace. Violence creates more violence. We strongly support major reductions in both military funding and aggressive international policies. Acknowledging that our nation has been in a state of perpetual war for more than half a century, we advocate for sharing peaceful technologies, promoting international programs of equality in education and economic opportunities, access to public health, clean water, air and safe foods, and environmental protection and preservation. Excessive US militarization also seriously drains our resources for developing equal opportunities for health, well being, and peace, within our own nation, by misdirecting assets away from much needed domestic programs for community resilience and opportunity.

Regarding Non-Military Public Service-

We firmly believe in service to others and to the natural world in which we all live. Our lives must be about service and sharing to make us whole. There are many ways to engage in such service to others, both in our personal lives and actions, and in our vocations, be they in the public/governmental sector, or in private business or non-profit activities. All such activities must always be conducted in non-violent fashion; that is the key to being consistent with respect for life, non-violence, and peace. These must always be the foundational criteria for public service.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to Commission. We look forward to possible opportunities to provide oral testimony at listening sessions in our area.

Sincerely and in Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stan Grotegut".

Stan Grotegut

Clerk of Meeting



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19 April 2018

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (NCMNPS)  
Attn: RFI COMMENT — Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

Via e-mail: [national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil](mailto:national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil)

**Re: Request for Information on Improving the Military Selective Service Process and Increasing Participation in Military, National, and Public Service**

The comments below are submitted in response to the notice and request for comments, “Request for Information on Improving the Military Selective Service Process and Increasing Participation in Military, National, and Public Service”, NCMNPS Docket No. 05-2018-01, FR Doc. 2018-0326, published at 83 *Federal Register* 7080-7081, 16 February 2018.

This Commission has been directed by Congress to “conduct a review of the military selective service process (commonly referred to as ‘the draft’)”<sup>1</sup>, including, “A detailed analysis of the current benefits derived... from the Military Selective Service System”.<sup>2</sup> The Commission has also asked, “Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans... feasible?”<sup>3</sup>

I welcome this inquiry and thank this Commission for the opportunity to submit these comments. In the 30 years since the failure of draft registration and the abandonment of any attempt to enforce the requirement for young men to register with the Selective Service System, there has been far too little attention paid to the (un)feasibility of a draft based on the current registration database, or to the implications for military policy of the failure of draft registration and the unavailability of a draft as a realistic policy option, even as a last resort.

**I urge this Commission to report to Congress and the President that no public benefit is being derived from the operations of the Selective Service System, because: (1) most people subject to the registration requirement do not comply, (2) the registration requirement is unenforceable and has proven to be so for decades, (3) the current Selective Service registration database could not be used as the basis for a workable draft, and (4) compliance with orders to report for induction would be even lower than compliance with registration, and even harder to enforce.**

1 Public Law 114-328, Sec. 551(a)(1)

2 Public Law 114-328, Sec. 552(b)(1)

3 83 *Federal Register* 7181, also available at <<http://inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts>>

I urge this Commission to recommend repeal of the Military Selective Service Act, abolition of the Selective Service System, expungement of the Selective Service registration database, and restoration of eligibility for Federal jobs, student aid, and all other Federal programs for individuals who have not registered with the Selective Service System.

These recommendations are based on practicalities, not political opinions, informed by intimate personal experience in, and intimate familiarity with the documentary record of, the history of compliance with and enforcement of draft registration since 1980.<sup>4</sup>

Beginning with the resumption of draft registration in 1980, and continuing through the U.S. proxy war in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the U.S. invasions of Kuwait and Iraq in 1991, I served as an (unpaid) organizer with the National Resistance Committee and as an (unpaid) co-editor of *Resistance News*, the national journal of resistance to draft registration.<sup>5</sup>

In 1983-1984, I served 4 1/2 months in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General, most of that time in a Federal Prison Camp, for my willful refusal to submit to registration with the Selective Service System, and for organizing and encouraging resistance to draft registration.<sup>6</sup>

Today, I serve as (unpaid) editor and maintainer of Resisters.info, a Web site about the draft, draft registration, draft resistance, and health care workers and women and the draft.<sup>7</sup>

There is no other service I have done in my life of which I am more proud.

When President Carter proposed to reinstate draft registration in 1980, he described it as a response to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But if the U.S. had sent draftees my age to Afghanistan in the 1980s, which side would we have been fighting on?

It should not be forgotten that when draft registration was reinstated, the U.S. was arming and funding the warlords and “mujahideen” who were then fighting against the USSR, and would later turn against the U.S. The U.S. government put me in prison for refusing to agree to fight on the side of the people who would later become the Taliban and Al Qaeda!

It's no wonder that people of my generation and after have no faith in the ability of the U.S. government to decide for us in which wars, or on which (if any) side, we should fight.

But it's not necessary for this Commission, the Congress, or the President to agree with or even to understand the reasons why some people resist the draft and draft registration<sup>8</sup> to assess whether a draft would be feasible – and to conclude, on the evidence, that it would not.

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4 See, “The History of Draft Registration and Draft Resistance Since 1980”, <<http://resisters.info/background.html>>

5 See, “About the National Resistance Committee and Resistance News”, <<http://resisters.info/nrc.html>>

6 See, “Prosecutions of Draft Registration Resisters”, <<http://resisters.info/prosecutions.html>>. For more about my personal biography and philosophy, see “Who Is Edward Hasbrouck? (and why is he bucking the system?)”, <<https://hasbrouck.org/bio/whoami.html>>.

7 <<http://www.resisters.info>>

8 For some of those reasons, see “Why do some people resist the draft?”, <<http://resisters.info/why.html>>, and my chapter, “Draft Resistance and the Politics of Identity and Status”, in *We Have Not been Moved: Resisting Racism and Militarism in 21st Century America*, edited by Elizabeth Betita Martínez, Mandy Carter, and Matt Meyer, PM Press and the War Resisters League, 2012, ISBN 9781604864809, available at <<http://resisters.info/draft-identity-status.pdf>>.

Before Congress reinstated Presidential authority to order draft registration in 1980, Congress received clear and explicit warning, from the most knowledgeable of experts, as to exactly what would happen, and in the event did, if and when it tried to resume registration.

On 14 April 1980, while legislation to reinstate presidential authority for draft registration and to bring the Selective Service System back from "deep standby" was pending in Congress, the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice of the House Committee on the Judiciary held the first of a series of hearings on, "The Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice Implications of Draft Registration".<sup>9</sup>

The hearing opened with a prescient statement by Curtis W. Tarr, who had been the Director of the Selective Service System from 1970-1972:

"My judgment is that in this national climate, offenders would constitute a significant portion of the total pool.

"If a person were apprehended for failure to obey the law, the next problem would be prosecution.... I doubt whether U.S. Attorneys or Federal Judges would attempt to convict young people in numbers that would ensure reasonable compliance with the law. Reacting to that laxity, counselors would soon advise young people not to register since the penalty would be inconsequential in the unlikely event that the offender were caught.

"Once registration has taken place, then records must be maintained. Enforcing a requirement to notify selective service of a changed address would be even more difficult than enforcing the duty to register. Again, courts would not wish to treat this failure as a serious transgression, a further encouragement to non-compliance.

"Thus I foresee the possibility of evasion by large numbers that would overwhelm the agencies for law enforcement and the judiciary."

At the same series of hearings, the Subcommittee heard testimony from opponents of draft registration who described plans and preparations for organized resistance to draft registration. They introduced into the hearing record the founding "Call for Resistance" to draft registration which had been issued earlier that year by the National Resistance Committee, the organization with which I was then working, and which had been distributed at the national "Mobilization Against the Draft" marches against draft registration by tens of thousands of people in Washington, DC, and San Francisco, CA, on 22 March 1980.<sup>10</sup>

**Congress and the President ignored Dr. Tarr's warning, but noncompliance with the registration and change of address notification requirements, and the eventual**

9 "Judiciary implications of draft registration - 1980, 96th Congress, 2nd session, April 14 and May 22, 1980." Scanned copy of committee print available at <<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/pur1.32754077953648>>

10 Reproduced at pp. 130-131 of the committee print, note 9, *supra*. Also available at <<http://resisters.info/draft/NRC-call-to-resistance-2MAR1980.pdf>>

**unwillingness of the Department of Justice to continue prosecutions that were failing to deter widespread noncompliance, unfolded exactly as Dr. Tarr had predicted.**

This Commission, and the Congress and President who will consider its recommendations, should not make the same mistake that Congress and the President made in 1980 of failing to look backward at history and forward to the foreseeable future to assess, realistically, the feasibility of enforcing draft registration and a draft based on it.

When men born in 1960, 1961, and 1962 were ordered to register at Post Offices during mass registration weeks in 1980 and 1981, far more of us stayed home than even the most optimistic supporters of draft resistance had hoped for.

Over the next year, widespread publicity about the extent of noncompliance created an increasing crisis of public legitimacy for draft registration and the Selective Service System.

In July 1982, less than a month after the first indictment for violating the new draft registration requirement, Justice Department officials were called before the same Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to answer questions about whether or how they planned to enforce draft registration in the face of the widespread noncompliance.<sup>11</sup>

David J. Kline, Senior Attorney with the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section of the Criminal Division, and Lawrence Lippe, Chief of the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section, appeared before the House Subcommittee on behalf of the Department of Justice. Even when specifically asked, they declined to tell Congress what prosecution policy had been decided on by the Department of Justice or what instructions had been given to U.S. Attorneys.

But internal Department of Justice documents describing and discussing those policies were disclosed to indicted nonregistrants a few months later during pretrial discovery.

The enforcement strategy adopted by the Department of Justice was explained in a memo drafted by Kline and sent over Lippe's signature to D. Lowell Jensen, Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division:<sup>12</sup>

"The total number of nonregistrants will doubtless remain very high when measured against the Department's prosecutive resources.

"However, an initial round of well-publicized, successful prosecutions should have a dramatic effect in further reducing the number of non-registrants....We first would have to accept the simple fact that, although some persons will be prosecuted, there will be others who are neither registered nor prosecuted. Nevertheless, such a policy, geared to present funding levels, might well yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system."

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11 "Selective Service Prosecutions – 1982: Oversight hearing before the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, 97th Congress, 2nd session, July 28, 1982." Scanned copy available at <<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/pur1.32754075288385>>.

12 Kline, memo over Lippe's signature to Jensen, 11 January 1982

Kline's plan was approved, and he instructed all U.S. Attorneys accordingly:

"We request that United States Attorneys assign any non-registration matters in their districts to experienced Assistant United States Attorneys and ensure that such matters are handled on a priority basis. If the non-registration matters pending within your district can be sufficiently investigated within a short period of time, indictments should be sought before the end of June [1982]."<sup>13</sup>

But prosecutions of selected nonregistrants failed to "yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Compliance *declined* following the prosecutions, for at least three reasons:

**First**, the overwhelming majority of U.S. Attorneys to whom nonregistration cases were referred ignored their instructions from Washington and chose not to seek indictments -- exactly as former Selective Service Director Tarr had predicted to Congress in 1980.

Hundreds of cases of nonregistrants, possibly as many as 2,000, were referred to U.S. Attorneys between 1980 and 1988, when prosecutions were suspended.

Only 20 of these cases -- perhaps as little as 1% of the total -- led to indictments.<sup>14</sup>

These were easy cases. Almost all of the nonregistration cases referred to U.S. Attorneys were of people who had informed the government of our refusal to register, usually by writing to the Selective Service or other officials, and/or who had publicized our refusal.

Some young men undoubtedly took the opportunity to register without penalty once they were visited by the FBI and told that if they didn't register, they might be indicted. But many, probably at least several hundred, still refused to register. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, U.S. Attorneys exercised their discretion not to prosecute.

**Second**, the prosecutions of self-identified nonregistrants did nothing to intimidate the much larger numbers who had quietly ignored registration. The Supreme Court upheld the legality of selecting nonregistrants for prosecution on the basis of whether we had spoken out about our resistance, on the theory that locking up the "most vocal" nonregistrants would have the greatest deterrent effect on others.<sup>15</sup> But that theory was proven wrong.

Nonregistrants weren't fools. They got the message, loud and clear, that there was safety in silence as well as safety in numbers, and little or no risk of prosecution unless they chose to single themselves out in the most flagrant possible ways. The selective prosecutions, and the publicity about selective prosecution, reassured and encouraged quiet nonregistrants.

13 Kline, Telex to all U.S. Attorneys, 14 June 1982. The first indictment was returned 30 June 1982 against Ben Sasway in San Diego, generally perceived at the time as a pro-military "Navy town". The case against me was assigned to an inexperienced Assistant U.S. Attorney in Boston, Robert S. Mueller III, and I was indicted in one of the Federal districts least likely to be sympathetic to the prosecution of draft registration resisters. This apparent disregard in my case for the recommendations from Main Justice appears to reflect AUSA Mueller's personal animus (as a Marine combat veteran) toward draft resisters and his willingness, and that of U.S. Attorney William F. Weld, to allow their personal political opinions to influence their exercise of prosecutorial discretion. The case was Mueller's first high-profile prosecution.

14 "Prosecutions of Draft Registration Resisters", <<http://resisters.info/prosecutions.html>>

15 *Wayte v. U.S.*, 470 U.S. 598 (1985)

**Third**, the government had to prove actual knowledge of the requirement to register. That ensured that nonregistrants would get a “last chance” to register after being given personal notice of their duty to register, and could wait to register until then with impunity.

In the one case in which the government picked out and indicted a nonregistrant who hadn't publicized or informed the government about his knowledge of the registration requirement, the prosecutor had to drop the charges in embarrassment when it became clear that the man indicted hadn't known that he was required to register.<sup>16</sup>

In the one case of a vocal nonregistrant who chose not to concede the element of knowledge and willfulness at trial, the conviction was eventually overturned because the trial judge had failed to instruct the jury adequately about the government's burden of proving actual knowledge of the registration requirement.<sup>17</sup>

To the extent that they heard about these cases, men subject to draft registration learned that if they were singled out for possible prosecution, they would have to be offered a “last chance” to register without penalty after they were personally advised of their legal obligation to register. Unless and until they were given such a “final warning” in person by the FBI, they could quietly ignore registration without incurring any real risk of prosecution.

It became clear that for someone who wanted neither to be drafted nor to be jailed, the safest course of action was, as it still is today, to quietly ignore registration.

In 1988, the Department of Justice threw in the towel and suspended prosecutions of nonregistrants – a suspension that has continued to this day, 30 years later.

The 1988 decision to suspend prosecutions was publicly disclosed by a Selective Service System spokesperson in a 2016 interview with *U.S. News & World Report*.<sup>18</sup>

“In the late '80s the Justice Department discontinued prosecutions. Dick Flahavan, a spokesman for the Selective Service who was with the agency at the time, recalls the Justice Department ‘decided that since there was no draft and there was high compliance, there are limited resources and the FBI's time would be better spent chasing white collar crime than some Mennonite kid through Pennsylvania.’

“We said, “Fine, we understand,” and that's why it ended in '88,’ he says. “The agency [Selective Service System] did agree to what the Justice Department proposed, a suspension of prosecutions [during peace time]. Since they did the prosecutions we didn't have much leverage anyways....”

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16 See list of all 20 indictments for nonregistration since 1980 and summaries of outcomes including dismissals or verdicts and sentences in all cases at “Prosecutions of Draft Registration Resisters”, <<http://resisters.info/prosecutions.html>>

17 *U.S. v. Kerley*, 838 F.2d 932 (7th Cir. 1988)

18 “Gender-Neutral Draft Registration Would Create Millions of Female Felons”, by Steven Nelson, *U.S. News & World Report*, 3 May 2016, <<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-05-03/gender-neutral-draft-registration-would-create-millions-of-female-felons>>

“Flahavan says the Selective Service had hoped for a much stronger approach from federal prosecutors, but was rebuffed....

“If someone registered just before trial, the prosecution would be dropped, Flahavan notes, making the pursuit of resisters ‘really a losing proposition for the feds’ and often ‘a big waste of time.’

“In 1987 a Justice Department spokesman told The New York Times it was preparing a policy through which the Selective Service System would periodically refer 200 names for prosecution. But that never happened.

“I think they were happy to walk away from it and we understand why,’ Flahavan says. ‘It was very labor intensive and very little came of it, although the government won [in the sense that most of the 20 men indicted were convicted].’”

Any plan to continue draft registration, expand it to women and/or to individuals with specified skills, and/or use it as the basis for a draft or compulsory “service” would either have to include a plausible plan for enforcement of registration or acknowledge that individuals can opt out of registration without risk of prosecution, as long as they do so quietly.

But nonregistration is only the tip of the iceberg of noncompliance with draft registration. Nonregistration is neither the most common form of noncompliance with draft registration, the most difficult to enforce, nor the most significant in the effect it would have on any attempt to use the current registration database as the basis for a draft.

Most young men, although far from all (and far fewer than is generally assumed), register with the Selective Service System at some time, at some address.

Most often this is either because they live in a state that links draft registration to obtaining a drivers license or to other state programs, because they are seeking Federal financial aid or loan guarantee for education or job training, or because draft registration is a condition of U.S. residency or naturalization as a U.S. citizen.

It’s important to note, however, that a substantial portion of the U.S. population lives in states including California where there is no linkage of draft registration to any state program. Use of drivers’ license funds for draft registration or other purposes unrelated to motor vehicle operations would violate California’s state Constitution, and the California legislature has voted repeatedly against bills to link drivers’ licenses to draft registration.

It’s also important to recognize that if the only reason people have registered with the Selective Service System is in order to obtain a drivers’ license or a student loan, the fact that they are registered says nothing about whether they would be willing to be drafted.

But draft registration is a continuing obligation, not a once-in-a-lifetime act. All male U.S. citizens or residents are required to notify the Selective Service System each time they change their residence until they reach their 26th birthday.

Compliance with this requirement to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address is extremely low. Most men subject to draft registration have moved without notifying the Selective Service System. Most addresses on file with the Selective Service System are obsolete. If a draft were to be conducted based on the current registration database, most induction notices would either wind up in the dead letter office, or would be delivered to former addresses, most likely parents' addresses at which registrants lived when they were 18.

There has been no independent audit of the accuracy of the Selective Service registration database, including the accuracy of registrants' addresses, since 1982. But already by 1982, only two years after the first registrations were submitted, the GAO found that 20% to 40% of the registrations on file with the Selective Service System contained obsolete addresses. "Also, we estimate that the percentage of outdated addresses at the end of the second through the fifth years following registration would be 32.5, 41.1, 52.8, and 61.6 percent respectively. Furthermore on the basis of Census data for older persons within the draft-eligible ages we estimate that about 75 percent of the addresses provided to the Selective Service at the time of registration would be outdated by the end of draft eligibility."<sup>19</sup>

Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981 during the attempt to resume draft registration, discussed some of the legal problems that this would cause in the event of a draft in an interview with the *Washington Post* in December 2017:

ROSTKER: The list that they have I doubt could pass the legal definition of a complete and objective list, because it is structurally flawed and Selective Service knows it.

CUNNINGHAM: Many young men don't ever actively register for the draft themselves. Their states automatically send their information to the Selective Service when they get a driver's license. But if they move apartments -- or across the country -- the information doesn't necessarily get updated. And what about the men without driver's licenses? Or the ones who live in states that don't automatically register them?

ROSTKER: It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate.<sup>20</sup>

Obsolete addresses would make it difficult to enforce induction orders, even if the courts didn't find that the registration list was too inaccurate to provide for due process.

Because it would be impossible to prove that registrants knew they were supposed to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address, or to prove that they had received induction notices unless they signed for them, registrants could and would safely avoid induction simply by not signing for any certified letters from the Selective Service System.

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19 "Failure Of Registrants To Report Address Changes Would Diminish Fairness Of Induction Processing", General Accounting Office report FPCD-82-45, 24 September 1982, <<https://www.gao.gov/assets/140/138752.pdf>>

20 "On Leadership: Episode 12 of the Constitutional podcast: 'The common defense'", by Lillian Cunningham, *Washington Post*, 4 December 2017, <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-leadership/wp/2017/12/04/episode-12-of-the-constitutional-podcast-the-common-defense/>>

They could neither be inducted nor prosecuted unless and until they had been tracked down and notified in person by FBI agents that they would be prosecuted if they did not report for induction. As with registration itself, they could ignore the draft with impunity until then.

As for induction notices delivered to registrants' parents, many parents would choose to destroy them rather than forwarding them to their children. Yes, destroying an induction notice, if provable, could itself be a crime. But many parents would, in such a situation, choose to shift the risk of prosecution for violating the draft law from their children to themselves.

Whether or not they have registered, the feasibility of any draft or any system of compulsory service depends critically on whether draftees will submit to induction.

It is clear from the history of draft registration since 1980 that young men will not comply voluntarily. Is it realistic to assume that women would be more willing to submit to draft registration and/or an actual draft than men have been?<sup>21</sup> Or that health care workers or other older women and men with specialized skills would be more willing to submit?<sup>22</sup>

Draft resisters are often accused of being naïve and unrealistic. But the naïveté is on the part of those who assume that people who have registered with the Selective Service System only as an automatic corollary of obtaining a driver's license, in order to obtain student loans or job training, or to avoid prosecution, would necessarily submit to induction if ordered.

Having told young men for decades that, "It's just registration, not a draft," it would be the height of self-delusion to interpret registration as an indication of willingness to be drafted.

Having adopted an explicit policy and practice of prosecuting only those who spoke out about our refusal to register, it would be the height of self-delusion to interpret the resulting silence as an indication that there is no opposition to draft registration or the draft.

There is currently no national organization the primary focus of which is opposition to the draft or draft registration. But that doesn't mean that there is no opposition, or that there would be no resistance to any effort to expand registration or to resume inductions.

The tendency to ignore or minimize the significance of silent noncompliance has been criticized as follows by the political anthropologist and scholar of resistance James C. Scott:

"Much of the active political life of subordinate groups has been ignored because it takes place at a level we rarely recognize as political. To emphasize the enormity of what has been, by and large, disregarded, I want to distinguish between the open, declared forms of resistance, which attract most attention, and the disguised, low-profile undeclared resistance.... For many of the least privileged minorities and marginalized poor, open political action will hardly capture the bulk of political action.... The luxury of relatively safe, open political opposition is rare...

21 See, "Women and Draft Registration", <<http://resisters.info/women.html>>, and links from that Web page including, "Dump draft registration, don't extend it to women" Op-Ed, San Francisco Chronicle, 4 June 2016, <<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Dump-draft-registration-don-t-extend-it-to-7964100.php>>

22 See, "Health Care Workers and the Medical Draft", <<http://www.medicaldraft.info>>

“So long as we confine our conception of the political to activity that is openly declared we are driven to conclude that subordinate groups essentially lack a political life.... To do so is to miss the immense terrain that lies between quiescence and [open] revolt and that, for better or worse, is the political environment of subject classes.... Each of the forms of disguised resistance... is the silent partner of a loud form of public resistance.”<sup>23</sup>

“Desertion is quite different from an open mutiny that directly challenges military commanders. It makes no public claims, it issues no manifestos, it is exit rather than voice. And yet, once the extent of desertion becomes known, it constrains the ambitions of commanders, who know they may not be able to count on their conscripts.... Quiet, anonymous,... lawbreaking and disobedience may well be the historically preferred mode of political action for... subaltern classes, for whom open defiance is too dangerous.”<sup>24</sup>

In addition to questions about the military draft and draft registration, this Commission asks, “Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans... feasible?”

Leaving aside for a moment the contradiction between “mandatory” and “service”, I have to point out that a requirement applicable only to certain age cohorts would be neither “universal” nor applicable to “all Americans”. That a program which would likely be age-specific (and, to be more precise, youth specific) can be described as applying to “all” is symptomatic of the profound depths of unconscious ageism in which conscription is rooted.

But not all opposition to military conscription is focused solely on its military purposes. Most draft resistance is not pacifist, and much of it has been motivated by anti-imperialism rather than anti-militarism. There is also opposition to conscription in itself, independent of its use for military purposes, and to the unfairness in its application including its ageism.<sup>25</sup>

Regardless of the age or age range to which such a mandatory requirement might be applied, it would face such widespread resistance as to render it unenforceable and unfeasible.

**Practical issues of compliance, noncompliance, and enforcement are likely to be dispositive of whether any continuation, modification, or expansion of draft registration, or any conscription or compulsory “service” program, will be feasible.**

Accordingly, I urge this Commission to devote at least one of your current series of panel discussions, and one of your planned later formal hearings, solely to these essential practical issues, and to include panelists and witnesses from within the Resistance. Don’t make the same mistake that Congress made when it ignored the evidence before it in 1980 that widespread noncompliance would make draft registration unenforceable, as in fact it did.

I would welcome an opportunity to meet with members and/or staff of the Commission, to participate in one of its panels, and/or to testify at one of its formal hearings.

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23 James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, Yale University Press, 1990, pp. 198-199

24 James C. Scott, *Two Cheers for Anarchism*, Princeton University Press, 2012, pp. 10-11

25 Note 8, *supra*.

The Commission also want to know what the government could do to encourage "service", particularly by young people. Here are some preliminary answers:

1. "Compulsory service" is, by definition, slavery. If you want to encourage any positive definition of service, it must be voluntary, and completely separate from any system of conscription. You cannot have a system that serves both conscription and positive "service". If you are doing something because of the carrot of financial rewards or the stick of threatened prosecution or other punishment, it's servitude, not service.

After my conviction for refusal to register for the draft, I was initially sentenced to six months' incarceration, suspended on condition that I perform 2,000 hours of "service". Although my probation officer testified – quite courageously – that she believed that my antiwar and nuclear disarmament work satisfied the conditions of my sentence, the judge later revoked my probation and ordered me locked up because he disagreed with the political statement made by my work.

It was a lesson in the relationship between conscription and compulsory "service", and of the politicization of the definition of acceptable "service".

2. "Military service" is, by definition, service to the cause of war. If you want to encourage any non-warlike notion of "service", you need to separate it completely from military recruiting, military training, or incentives for military enlistment.
3. People can best "serve" by making their own choices. "Service" should not be limited to options approved by the government for nonprofit status. We need youth leadership to save us from the threats of nuclear and climate-change calamities that we older people have created. We need to allow young people to lead, not force them to follow. Accepting youth leadership means allowing young people to make choices that older people would not have identified for them.
4. The greatest limitation on the ability to "serve", especially for young people, is student debt that forces people to seek higher-paying jobs. This is the new form of the "channeling" of young people's choices by the Selective Service System.<sup>26</sup> The best way to enable more people to "serve" is to free them from student and vocational-training debt by recognizing education as a human right and shifting funding for education and job training from loans to grants.

Peace,

Edward Hasbrouck  
San Francisco, CA  
19 April 2018

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<sup>26</sup> See the leaked 1965 Selective Service System memorandum, "Channeling", available at <http://resisters.info/channeling.html>

OPEN FORUM *On Selective Service Registration*

# Don't extend draft to women — end it

By Edward Hasbrouck

Congress is now debating amendments to a pending defense bill to either extend Selective Service System registration to women or end it entirely. Congress should drop this costly and inevitably futile attempt to extend draft registration to women and, instead, end the draft registration altogether.

The debate was prompted by the change in policy that allows women in combat. If all combat assignments are open to women, then it follows that there is no longer a basis in military policy for requiring

men but not women to register for the draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that the men-only draft registration requirement is unconstitutional.

Those who believe in treating women and men equally include those who would register both men and women for the draft and those who wouldn't require anyone to register. Missing from this debate has been whether it will even be possible to get women to register.

President Jimmy Carter's proposal to reinstate draft registration in 1980, after a

five-year hiatus, initially included men and women. Some of the strongest opposition came from women. The National Resistance Committee was founded at the Women's Building in San Francisco within weeks of Carter's announcement.

Carter's rationale for bringing back draft registration was to prepare for U.S. intervention in Afghanistan in support of the fighters who were then referred to as "mujahedeen," and who later became the Taliban and al Qaeda. (The U.S. government put me in prison in 1983-1984 for refusing to agree to fight on the side of the Taliban and al Qaeda.)

In the early 1980s, the government tried to scare young men into registering by prosecuting a handful of vocal non-registrants. But the show trials backfired. They called attention to the resistance and made clear that there was

safety in numbers. Enforcement of draft registration was suspended in 1988, and never resumed.

Young men today have to register in order to be eligible for student aid and some other government programs, but there's no attempt to verify their addresses. The only audit of Selective Service, in 1982, found that 20 to 40 percent of addresses on file already were outdated. Noncompliance has made registration unenforceable and the registration database useless as the basis for a fair or inclusive draft.

Any realistic budget for the expansion of draft registration to women would need to include the cost to track down, prosecute and imprison those who resist.

Young women have the same reasons as young men to oppose draft registration, and will undoubtedly have other reasons of their own. A peti-

tion to end draft registration entirely, started last month by a draft-age San Francisco woman, Julie Mastrine, got more than 10,000 signatures in its first week. The petition quotes the young feminist writer Lucy Steigerwald, "You don't stop the runaway truck of U.S. foreign policy by throwing a man in front of it, and you definitely don't stop it by throwing a man and a woman, just to make things equal."

The federal government doesn't do well at acknowledging that its power is limited by the willingness of the people to carry out its orders. But draft registration has failed. The only realistic choice is to end it.

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*Edward Hasbrouck is a travel writer and human rights activist in San Francisco. His website about the draft, draft registration and draft resistance is at [Resisters.info](http://Resisters.info).*

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## **Public testimony of Matthew Nicodemus, U.S. draft resister since 1978**

### **Public hearing of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service**

**Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, Colorado, April 19, 2018**

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input.

My name is Matthew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration.

During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft and, out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription.

I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally.

When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences.

During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of *Resistance News*, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world.

Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand that I and more individuals and organizations than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're highly effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict.

**Matt Nicodemus, 2852 Kalmia Ave., Boulder, CO 80301, Cell: 720-979-9967**

# What should be done about Selective Service?

by Edward Hasbrouck and Matt Nicodemus

(members of the War Resisters League; public nonregistrants for the draft;

former co-editors of *Resistance News* and organizers with the National Resistance Committee)

Denver, CO, April 19, 2018

The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015<sup>1</sup> eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases<sup>2</sup> are likely to produce a ruling that male-only draft registration is unconstitutional.

Congress has thus been forced to consider whether to extend draft registration to women as well as men, or to end it for all.

In 2016, Representatives Jared Polis (D-Boulder) and Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) introduced legislation<sup>3</sup> to end draft registration, abolish the Selective Service System, and restore eligibility for Federal jobs, student aid, and other government programs to people who haven't registered for the draft. The Denver Post editorialized<sup>4</sup> [4], "It's time to abolish the Selective Service and end the draft."

Instead, Congress punted the question into the Trump Administration by creating a commission to study the issue and report back to Congress and the President by October 2020.<sup>5</sup>

That national commission will be in Denver April 19th for the second of its open-mic public hearings.<sup>6</sup>

We're here to point out that the Emperor has no clothes: Draft registration has failed. Widespread noncompliance has rendered it unenforceable. Any attempt at conscription would meet the same fate.

In the years after draft registration was reinstated in 1980, we worked as organizers with the National Resistance Committee and as co-editors of *Resistance News*, the national journal of resistance to draft registration.<sup>7</sup> We publicly refused to register and encouraged others to join us in resistance. Hundreds of thousands at first, and millions over the decades to follow, did so.<sup>8</sup>

Faced with far greater noncompliance than it had anticipated, the government tried to scare young men into registering by prosecuting a handful of vocal nonregistrants. One of us (Hasbrouck) was convicted<sup>9</sup> of refusal to register and served 4 1/2 months in a Federal Prison Camp in 1983-1984.<sup>10</sup>

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1 <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/632578/department-of-defense-press-briefing-by-secretary-carter-in-the-pentagon-briefi/>

2 <https://www.courthousenews.com/judge-allows-men-to-challenge-male-only-draft/>

3 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4523>

4 <https://www.denverpost.com/2016/02/11/its-time-to-abolish-the-selective-service-and-end-the-draft/>

5 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-114publ328/pdf/PLAW-114publ328.pdf#page=132>

6 <http://www.inspire2serve.gov/news-events/please-join-us-our-public-conversation-denver-colorado>

7 <http://resisters.info/nrc.html>

8 <http://resisters.info/prosecutions.html>

9 <https://www.nytimes.com/1982/12/16/us/massachusetts-man-is-guilty-of-not-registering-for-draft.html>

But show trials backfired. They made clear that there was safety in numbers and that only those who spoke up could be prosecuted. In 1988, after only 20 nonregistrants had been indicted<sup>11</sup>, the Department of Justice gave up on trying to enforce the registration requirement.<sup>12</sup>

Young men today have to register in order to be eligible for student aid and some other government programs, including drivers' licenses in some states including Colorado (although not others, including California). But there's no attempt to verify addresses. Men are supposed to tell the Selective Service System every time they move until they are 26, but almost nobody does. The only audit of the database, in 1982, found that 20 to 40 percent of the addresses were already outdated.<sup>13</sup>

Most of the people subject to draft registration have violated the law, and most induction notices would end up in the dead letter office. Noncompliance has made the registration database useless as the basis for a draft. Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981, told an interviewer in December 2017, "It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate."<sup>14</sup>

Draft registration has continued only because there's been no face-saving way for the government to admit that its power to conscript is constrained by the willingness of potential draftees to submit.

The Commission is also supposed to report on, "the feasibility... of modifying the military selective service process in order to obtain... individuals with... medical, dental, and nursing skills, language skills, cyber skills, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills) ... without regard to age or sex."<sup>15</sup> But it's absurdly naive to think that women or older health and IT workers would be more willing to submit to conscription than young men have been.

The commission should report to Congress and the President that, whether or not they agree with or understand the reasons for our resistance, a draft is not feasible and draft registration should be ended.

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10 <https://www.nytimes.com/1990/12/09/opinion/l-let-s-be-serious-when-we-talk-about-war-we-still-won-t-go-965890.html>

11 <http://resisters.info/prosecutions.html>

12 <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-05-03/gender-neutral-draft-registration-would-create-millions-of-female-felons>

13 <http://archive.gao.gov/f0102/119502.pdf>

14 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-leadership/wp/2017/12/04/episode-12-of-the-constitutional-podcast-the-common-defense/>

15 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-114publ328/pdf/PLAW-114publ328.pdf#page=132>



## **HELL, NO! WE STILL WON'T GO!**

### **War Resisters League Calls for Renewed Resistance to Conscription and Militarism**

Even 45 years after its demise, the specter of the draft continues to haunt the United States. In much of the world, military conscription remains a cruel and heavy burden on the young. In the United States, conscription is a horror-movie corpse that won't stay dead. President Carter exhumed draft registration in 1980, and proposals for compulsory "national service" loom. The War Resisters League makes this statement to urge all of us not to praise the draft, but to bury it once and for all.

### **Resisting Conscription for 95 Years (and Counting)**

WRL was born out of draft resistance. It was founded in 1923 out of support circles for World War I conscientious objectors, especially those whose objection to military service was based on secular, rather than religious, principle. Many were still suffering social and criminal sanctions for their refusal to serve in the war that was to end all war.

Instead, the Great War set the stage for a greater war. Again, secular COs were jailed by the hundreds. This time, however, the most radical among them -- men like Dave Dellinger, Bill Sutherland, George Houser, Bayard Rustin, Lew Hill, Igal Roodenko, and Ralph DiGia -- came, sooner or later, to WRL. Their commitment to confronting racism and belief in the importance of nonviolent resistance helped set the stage for the social movements of the next half century.

Although more draft resisters were jailed during World War II (more than 5,000) than during the U.S. war against Vietnam (more than 3,000), WRL and anti-draft organization The Resistance helped build a mass movement against conscription and the Vietnam War that led to the abolition of the draft in 1973 and the eventual end of the war.

Because of our opposition to both militarism and injustice, even before the end of legal conscription, we became a prominent participant in the movement countering the "poverty draft": the targeting by armed services recruiters of young people of color in the inner cities and lower-middle-income youth, especially in the South and rural areas. WRL has also resisted and continues to resist other expressions of militarism such as militarized toys and games, ROTC and JROTC, and the Trojan horse Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, which masquerades as vocational guidance but has hidden inside it the Armed Forces Qualifying Test.

When draft registration was revived in 1980, many organizations supported the rights of draft registration resisters. WRL went further, as one of the few major organizations actually advocating draft registration resistance.

### **Coerced National Service: Thinly Camouflaged Militarism**

But ever since the first Gulf War, there have been periodic calls for a return to conscription. Some have advocated various "national service" schemes, some of them compulsory and therefore amounting to a draft. Others have argued that a draft would be more fair than the "poverty draft" relied on by recruiters for the present so-called all-volunteer military, or that more people would oppose war if they feared that they or their family members might be drafted.

As to the national service proposals, compelled or coerced labor is conscription, not voluntary service, regardless of the purpose for which people are conscripted or the work they are forced to do. Work for the military is service in neither the nation's interests nor those of humanity. We urge advocates of "service" to make it clear that their call for public and community service is a call for genuine volunteerism and to dissociate voluntary service proposals from any form of legal or financial coercion or linkage with military enlistment or military training.

As to the fairness arguments, we share the concern for the targeting by military recruiters of people of color and of low-income youth -- those with the fewest other options. It is a dramatic sign of social failure that, for many, joining the armed forces seems like the only path to financial security, personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of self-worth and belonging to a community.

But a draft will not solve those problems. As pacifists, in any case, we reject all proposals to turn anyone, volunteer or conscript, into cannon fodder. As observers of history, we also note that no draft has ever fairly and impartially taken the children of the rich as well as those of the poor. We urge all those who are concerned with fairness and justice, to focus

instead on investigating and overseeing recruiting practices and on creating alternatives to the military and to militarism (such as non-military vocational, violence reduction, and conflict resolution training, with financing that doesn't leave participants saddled with debt), rather than on trying to enlarge the pool of those subject to the abuses of the military.

Rather than find ways to force the unwilling to fight unpopular wars, we should find ways to prevent, end, and abolish all wars.

Congressional leaders have declared that they will never enact a draft. But they continue to authorize, fund, and maintain draft registration, the Selective Service System, and contingency planning for both a general draft and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. We call on them to match their actions to their words and enact legislation to (1) repeal the Military Selective Service Act and presidential authority to order draft registration, (2) abolish the Selective Service System, (3) defund and forbid contingency planning for any form of draft, and (4) eliminate the section of the proposed DREAM Act which attempts to coerce undocumented immigrant youth into joining the military, while passing the portion that would smoothen the way for undocumented youth to attend college.

## We Resist

When draft registration was reinstated for young men in 1980, more than a million potential draftees born in 1960 and 1961 opted out by boycotting the initial mass registration periods. In the quarter-century-plus since then, more millions have declined to register. Almost no one complies with the requirement to notify the Selective Service System of address changes until reaching age 26. These acts of noncompliance amount to mass nonviolent direct action, which provided, and continues to provide, safety in numbers for resisters. Beyond mere protest, they have rendered draft registration unenforceable and might well prevent any draft from being enforceable.

The question is not whether Congress, the Pentagon, or the president want a draft, or believe it is necessary as a last resort. Whether there will be a draft rests with the people, not the Congress. This is a statement of fact, supported by history: Young people won't go, and the government can't make them. We urge Congress, the Pentagon, and the president to recognize the impossibility of a draft and to curtail their war plans accordingly. The draft is not an option, even as a last resort.

We urge health care workers, and others with special skills in particular demand by the military, to take encouragement from the successful resistance to reinstatement of a general draft and to resist any activation of the Health Care Personnel Delivery System or any other form of special skills draft. As with a general draft, there is safety, solidarity, and effectiveness in numbers, openness, and organization. Polls suggest that many health care workers would actively avoid being drafted, whether through legal or illegal means. We welcome and encourage that inclination towards resistance, which we believe would make a medical or special skills draft as unenforceable as a general draft.

We urge potential soldiers to reject both the carrot and the stick of military recruiting and conscription, and to refuse to be enlisted or to be inducted into any branch of the military or to work for the military as mercenaries or contractors.

In solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War, we extend support to GI resisters and antiwar veterans who are struggling to end the current U.S. wars. Whether or not they have registered, we promise all who resist militarism the same support and solidarity we extend to GI resisters, whether that resistance takes the form of refusing to register, refusing to notify the Selective Service System of address changes, refusing to report for induction, refusing to be inducted, refusing to report for military duty, applying for conscientious objector status, obtaining discharge on other grounds, going AWOL, or refusing orders within the military.

We realize the Military Selective Service Act says that anyone who "knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces" is committing a crime (see [www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf](http://www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf), sec. 462, p. 39). We wholeheartedly counsel, aid, and abet such resistance. The War Resisters League has never let the machinery of war or coercive laws limit the scope of our nonviolent actions. We call it peacemaking. We believe war is the real crime. As we build on our legacy of resistance, we hope you'll join us.

*The War Resisters League affirms that all war is a crime against humanity. We are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all causes of war, including racism, sexism and all forms of exploitation. War Resisters League, 168 Canal St, Suite 600. New York, NY 10013. phone 212.228.0450, [wrl@warresisters.org](mailto:wrl@warresisters.org). More about the draft, draft registration, and draft resistance: [www.resisters.info](http://www.resisters.info)*

Richard D. Andrews

P.O. Box 19105

Boulder, CO 80308

19 April 2018

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Attn: RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01

2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal comments to the Commission on the subject of military service, national and public service. I will address each of these elements. First some background.

I am a veteran, having served as a commissioned line officer in the Navy during the Vietnam war. I entered in 1968, via Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, before the establishment of the lottery system. My motivation at that time was not out of a sense of duty to serve in the military at all, given that the Vietnam war was never a war of national security or otherwise in the national interest. I only entered the Navy to avoid being drafted into ground troops where I would directly be required to kill others, and possibly be killed. I admit that my serving as a Naval officer was in part an act of self preservation, a probability judgment. I did survive where more than 50,000 others from our country did not, and countless others were injured, physically and mentally; and millions of Vietnamese were killed in an unnecessary war. At the time I was also accepted into the Peace Corps, but it did not ensure that I would not be subsequently drafted into military service.

I must also state that every conflict and war that the USA has engaged in since Vietnam and even before also fail the test of being necessary wars of national security purpose. And I will note that none of these military actions, including my service during the Vietnam war have ever been formally approved by the U.S. Congress as required by our Constitution. Therefore, all wars since World War II have been totally illegal. And individuals who have served, including me, whether by draft or by voluntary service have been complicit in violating our most fundamental laws of this country, and often in violation of numerous international laws and treaties. That simply must stop.

## Military Service –

The military of the United States is intended to be for the defense of our country and the security of its people, as stated in the U.S. Constitution. In fact, there was never an intent by our founding fathers who wrote our Constitution to have a standing army. The only standing military force authorized by our Constitution is a naval force. The other branches of the military, army, air force, marines are only allowed to exist for a maximum period of two years, not be perpetual. (see Article I, Section 8). But our Constitution has been grossly corrupted by other motivations, heavily for the benefit of the corporations that derive their profits from perpetually preparing for and executing wars and interventions outside of our borders. And our Congress has likewise been corrupted to serve those corporate interests by dark money and unlimited campaign financing and perks from their personal political positions.

Beyond this illegality of the U.S.A. wars and “conflicts”, history proves that wars and use of violence and forcing others to submit to suppression by exercise of power is ineffective in almost all situations. Peaceful means of resolving conflicts among parties and nations do work, but are rarely given the opportunity to occur. Finding security is only achieved in its fullest sense when parties on all sides of disagreement and conflict can feel secure, and actually be secure. Security is not a one way street in which one side wins and the other sides submit or are suppressed.

Our Constitution, as amended, provides for freedom on religion and its free exercise. A religion need not be a formal personal membership in any particular recognized faith institution...but is a personal belief that guides one’s ethical and moral actions in life. For many, including me, this includes a belief that using violence against other people or nations should never occur, and is a personal and religious principle. I affiliate with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), which I and that faith group have as a founding principle the testimony of peace and harmony. Participating in military adventures and interventions, and bloody wars are in violation of that testimony.

Following are my answers to some of the questions posed by the Commission:

1. Is a military draft necessary to U.S. national security?

My answer is a definite no. The military draft violates personal freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, as well as being in violation of the illegality of a standing army.

2. Are modifications to the Selective Service System needed?

Yes, modifications are needed.

- The Selective Service System should be dismantled.
- And in particular the mandatory registration of age eligible persons should be abandoned.
- No critical skills or professions should be forced into compulsory service, military or otherwise.
- No registration should be extended to include mandatory registration of females.
- In association with the elimination of military draft registration, all national, state and local laws and regulations associated with denying public services to individuals who do not

register must be eliminated. These are unjust penalties. This would include involuntary registration that happens in Colorado when a person applies for a state issued drivers license or ID card. Public benefits should not be tied to draft registration, such as obtaining in-state tuition at colleges, or obtaining federal or state assistance loans for education, or for any other public service such as access to health care, etc.

- If the decision is made to retain the Selective Service System, a provision for individuals to initially register as a conscientious objector must be included, easily done at time of registration. Since many individuals currently enter the military because of reality or perception that they cannot find employment elsewhere (sometimes called the "poverty draft"), the ability to voluntarily leave the military must be provided through a rapid and easy process, including decisions of conscience objection arrived at by individuals after joining, and during both active duty and reserve duty status. Many individuals will not achieve this clarity that doing violence against others is wrong until faced with the actual order to do so.

3. How can the USA increase participation in military, national and public service for critical skills for national security and other public service to the nation?

*Military service* should never be a mandatory requirement of individuals, for reasons noted previously. It should only be voluntary, solely by personal freedom of choice, never compulsory, and only for providing true security under the principles of ensuring mutual security for all parties in any conflict. The military can improve participation by ensuring that the USA does not enter into foreign and domestic wars and interventions, such as the history of every undeclared war and act of violence since WW-II. The corruption of the military by its vast and limitless budgets is diverting the ability of our nation to build true security by making people secure both at home and by service to the disadvantaged people of the world. The military recruitment process should not include legal access to young people of draft age or below in our nation's primary and secondary schools, as is now mandated under the "no child left behind act". That activity is conducted using enticements by recruiters who routinely make all kinds of promises that are not, cannot be kept once enlistment contracts are read in the fine print and in duty assignments. This even includes promises to non-citizen residents who are promised a pathway to citizenship, which has recently been rescinded, breaking those promises. Individuals must only sign up on their own volition and out of their own personal interest.

*Public service*, interpreted to mean service in other components of government, is likewise a personal freedom of choice, and must not ever be made compulsory. I once was a federal government employee, the U.S. EPA, but left that agency when the job ceased to be professionally challenging, and began to fail in its legal mission, and even later became corrupted by corporate influence/infiltration to degrade it's public service function of serving to protect the public health and safety of people and to the environment. The same thing has happened to numerous government agencies, examples being USDA, FDA, agencies of Dept of Interior, HHS, Dept of State, Dept of Commerce, etc. Today's elected government leadership has further corrupted the EPA and so many agencies by destroying their scientific integrity and

its credibility and the ability to do their intended missions. Today's administration in particular is damaging the sense and even desire to become a public servant, by its demeaning of public employees, even to the extent of silencing, demoting, and otherwise sanctioning government employees who speak out with truths, and who seek to restore the integrity and trust within the agencies and departments. Individual employees in government must understand that they will be trusted, will be supported to conduct their jobs with honor, not discredited and even fired for their integrity and ethical principles. Finally, government's purpose to serve the public must be restored. Our democracy of the people must be restored. The present capture of government by special and corporate interest must come to an end. Then public service can once again be an honorable path for individuals to enter.

*National Service* - National service is a very good objective. I personally support the concept that citizens and legal residents of our nation should be encouraged to engage in national service. That can be achieved through voluntary public service in government, or by innumerable other paths in private lives, including for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, by participating in elected public offices, and even in solely personal endeavors to help others, or even by leading exemplary lives in their chosen paths. For example, our nation is in great need of a new cadre of individuals, actually millions of people, serving the public by providing safe, non-toxic foods to meet the daily needs of our population. Other examples include engaging in building the security of people in our own country and around the world, especially in the many countries where our nation has instead imposed military intervention and aggression, either directly or by providing military arms to other countries that suppress their own people and neighbors (numerous examples continue on all continents). The better path and only path that will be successful for peace and security is through aid provision of real human and environmental needs: health care, support in providing clean air and water, assistance with food security, service to liberate women and ethnically and racially oppressed peoples, and in particular working diligently to disengage from climate disruption/damaging fossil fuel dependencies, replacing this world security threat by truly responsible and sustainable energy, transportation, agriculture and construction.

Several of the other questions posed by the Commission for public comment input are embodied in my comments provided above.

Overall, the way to peace and security is by sharing it equitably among all parties. A world of dominating nations and oppressed nations will not be secure for either side. Only by practicing peace, equality, honoring of community, fully supporting integrity, and pursuing fully sustainability of our environment can we all become secure and live our lives to the fullest human potential.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my comments to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Andrews





Mr. James F. Meehan  
3057 Ervin Rd NW  
Dover, OH 44622-7731

330-343-5651

Natl. Commission - Draft info request.

In an article in the Nov. Dec. issue of the Veteran paper, along with the Locator, was a request for information on Were you Drafted - Vietnam.

I don't have a computer so I used the local library to get an address for you. The article you placed says you can submit your input on draft boards etc; up to 500 words. My story takes more than 500 words if any one there, or those you will present your findings to.

Back in 1954 when I was 12 years old, I was hit by a car & suffered brain damage. Brain damage entitles you to a 4F draft classification and exempts you from military service. I took a draft physical in Feb. 1966 & took my hospital records & also a Doctors report saying my wife was pregnant. At the end of the physical, the Drs discussed if I should get a 3A or 4F. The 3A defers you due to a hardship to dependents, but can be changed back to what you were before 3A, if that hardship goes away. Not so with a 4F for what I had. The brain damage issue would be for all my life & so would the 4F deferment. Due to circumstances, in 1968 my wife, son and I moved from Ohio to Calif. Then, in March of 69 I came back here with plans to get a job & apartment, then fly back to Calif & drive her & our son back in her car which we had purchased out there. According to



the draft registration form, you are required by Federal Law to provide change of address. When I did that, I was reclassified 1A. I went to the draft board & they said I'd get drafted in 2 weeks if my wife wasn't back here & she went there & signed papers. It had to be done in your Home Draft Board, I got reclassified on Mar. 25-69 & had until April 9<sup>th</sup> to have her there. I went to Calif with out enough \$ to drive back & ran out of time. I went to the draft board in LA & they said there was nothing they could do, but they could set me up with an Army recruiter so I wouldn't get in trouble for not reporting to Cleveland Oh. on the 9<sup>th</sup> to be inducted so that's how I ended up in the Army. I think if you were drafted & didn't show up, you could be fined & put in jail. Being in the Army when I shouldn't have been seemed like better than being in jail.

I spent 20 months & 3 days in the Army, spent 3½ months in Vietnam as a Scout Dog Handler where I walked point for infantry companies. I have a Bronze Star with V and Arcom with V, a CIB and several other combat decorations. I saw lots of combat & got confirmed kills etc on numerous missions.

Then when I got home, I developed PTSD. I filed a claim with the VA & went 100%, then 30% & 50%. In 2005, at a CFP exam the Psychiatrist she had reviewed my military records & did I know that

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]*

people who had brain damage never had to serve in the military?

So, when times allowed, I contacted my U.S. Senator - Sherrod Brown & the Senior Const. advisor, got my records & confirmed I should have never been in the Army & the Army should owe me some large compensation for what happened to me.

There's a lot more to this story, but I won't go into that unless some one there or in the government is interested in hearing it.

I sent you an email with my phone # and now this letter & I'll wait for your reply. I can come to Washington to discuss this if it would help.

According to a member of the House Armed Services Committee at the Rayburn building, this happened to others too.

Please respond.

Sincerely  
James F. Meehan

330-343-5651

What happened to me was a violation of my Constitutional Right - to Equal Protection.

Donald Trump got a 4F after 4 yr. 2S student deferment - for Bone Spurs on his heels or heel.

Because his family's DR told the draft board he had them, he don't remember which heel. I know

I had brain damage & it was in my Army records.



John S. Huyler, Jr.

Please deliver to Mark Gearan - Thanks

April 19, 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Dear Commissioners:

I am honored to be able to submit this letter. Thank you for your service.

Undoubtedly, although you may have been nominated or encouraged by others, each of you has volunteered to serve as a Commissioner because you hope "to ignite a national conversation around service and, ultimately, develop recommendations that will encourage every American to be inspired and eager to serve." Thank you for taking this on.

My years as a Naval Aviator and parent of a Millennial have inspired me to synthesize two recommendations that I am particularly grateful to be able to submit so near to the beginning of your three years of work.

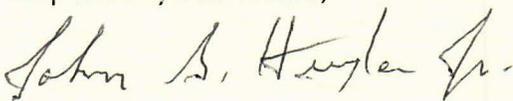
- 1) the "ethos of service among American youth" that you seek can only be achieved through a non-coercive system that includes women (the majority of the population), and,
- 2) your focus must give equal standing to the three types of service that are reflected in your title: "military, national and public."

In Colorado, as in the majority of States, young men are automatically registered with the Selective Service as part of their applications for drivers' licenses at age 18. The current system is coercive because of its penalties for not registering and the lack of any choice about the kind of service to which each young man is then subject.

Currently, military service is not mandatory because there is no military draft. In today's registration process other forms of "national and public" service such as AmeriCorps, Teach for America and the Peace Corps are not even considered. And young women are excluded.

I have no doubt that a broader and less coercive approach would produce much better servants of the common good; that the ranks of the military would be adequately filled (as they are now); and that an ethos of public service would be advanced much more effectively by replacing the outdated Selective Service system with one designed according to the two recommendations above.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John S. Huyler, Jr.

over →

Sorry you couldn't come

the Colorado session. My wife and I both graduated from the KSG in '79. Here are the remarks I prepared in advance for today's public session.

Please feel free to contact me by email or both of us (DeAnne Butterfield) by phone. The number on the <sup>and me</sup> letterhead is our home number. We're both deeply dedicated to public service.

Good luck with this important work.

John Huyler

P.S. The public session here was well done. Thank you!

January 8, 2019

Leonard M. Counihan  
5260 W. Broken Tee Rd  
Rathdrum, ID 83858  
lescounihan@yahoo.com

Dear Sir;

The question I want to answer is number 6-  
"Are modifications to the selective service system  
needed?"

I believe that the selective service system  
needs some modifications for the system to work.

The reason I say this, because when I was  
18 I signed up for the selective service like I  
was suppose to do. I was 18 I joined the  
U.S. Navy. Then I did 11 years in the Navy  
for my country.

But when I went to starting putting in  
applications for the state and federal jobs,  
They kept asking if I signed up for the selective  
service when I was 18 also it ask me what  
was my selective service number. That is a problem  
because I did not keep my selective service  
number when I join the Navy.

The modification I would like to see for the selective service system is that if the young man joined the Armed Forces of the United States. And then goes to do a federal job application, when he answers that he was in the military then he should not have to answer if he signed up for the selective service. Joining the military should be good enough to meet that requirement.

Also I think that young ladies from the age 18 and up to 26 should have to sign up for the selective service system. Also if the Democrats wants illegal immigrants to be in America than these illegal immigrants should have to sign up for the selective service system for their new country.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Puff

P.O. Box 5067  
Ventura, CA 93005  
12/14/19

To Whom It May Concern :

I have a great concern that selective service increases divisiveness among the population in the United States and causes undue suffering.

I feel strongly that one should be allowed to follow one's conscience and declare conscientious objector status without penalty.

Current penalties for noncompliance are disproportional for the harm incurred. They should be removed, retroactively.

Respect should be given to immigrants and I believe they, like others, should be exempt from any requirement to register for a system to increase the divisions in our country.

As a Quaker, I believe in peaceful effort to resolve conflict.

Sincerely,  
Holly Anderson

"Dedicated To Mr Heck"  
God Bless America  
My Home Sweet |

please do <sup>Home</sup> call cell

Son, Step-

michaelangelo Lieber

Grandson, Friend,  
of war  
Veterans

(619) 259-4572  
(619) 731-1201

+1 heat hantle  
will work turned  
on

P.S. Send me these on 8 x 10 photo  
of yourself in uniform with  
business cards, brochures and with  
letter-book that matches

Dear Mr. Fleck Chairman  
I truly believe that  
with your organization  
would help every single  
veteran that whom  
gave his or her life  
and also with PTSD  
and my dad never got  
the support what he  
ever needed. I've dedicated  
myself helping alot of  
PTSD war veterans or  
residential home-houser  
dealing veterans and  
taking care of them  
from WWII, Vietnam War-2  
vets, Afghanistan. Drugs &  
alcohol worst killers of  
veterans and suicides also  
at very high rates. My  
late step-grand father  
fought in Normandy, France  
D-Day June 5, 1944 was  
wounded and received the  
purple heart. May Jesus  
Christ always be with  
you John 3:16 amen.

Constantine Son, Step- Grandson  
Friend, Michael Angelo Liberos  
of war veterans

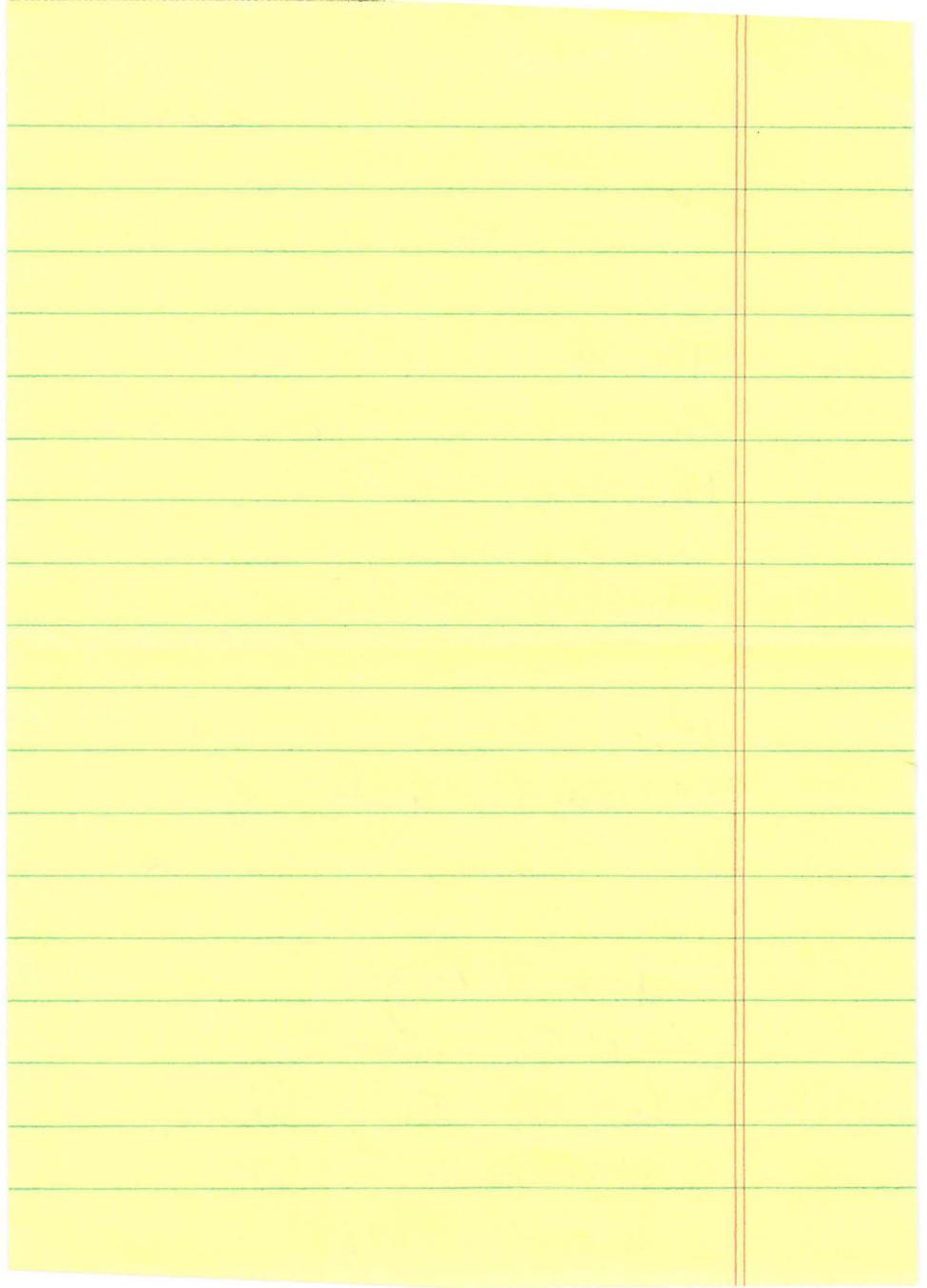
Sept 4 2018

To Whom it may concern'

The time to end  
the selective service syst  
has long since past.  
I encourage you to  
eliminate it.

Also 'no' to national  
service, & the draft of  
both men and women

Joey B. King  
799 Farmingdale Dr  
La Vergne TN 37086  
jbranger@aol.com  
615-485-1616



Oct 8, 2018

## RE Abolishing Draft Registration

A veteran of the Iraq War said he did not believe a system that relied on fear, threats, and punishment could lead to real service. He spoke of the <sup>U.S.</sup> military, but it easily could be applied to the "Selective Services" and coercive registration.

Young people need to feel motivated to serve - and the DRAFT is not a model of service. Anyone who is called by conscience not to participate in any way in war must be allowed to become a conscientious objector.

Peace and Blessings,

Judith Kelly

2038 N. Kensington St. Arlington, VA 22205

Oct 2018

# RE: Identifying Staff Expectations

A number of the above staff said  
 he did not believe a system  
 that would be used to track  
 performance could lead to  
 fairness. He spoke to the  
 but it could be applied  
 to the "Self-Review" and  
 associated expectations.

Group people - need to feel motivated  
 to work - and the IRT is not  
 a model of success. People who  
 are called to work are not  
 motivated in any way. It  
 must be allowed to become  
 a successful system.

There are things  
 to be done  
 2018 N. Foundation of Leadership. A year

Focus on young people -

increasingly by adults of all ages are engaged in service. We have to think about how these programs have changed with new demographics and different motivations.

Inspired and eager to serve. We assume young people are able to serve. The living stipends and educational benefits are not enough to support young folks of low SES status to serve. We assume members are white and middle class. This rhetoric DOES NOT WORK for diverse communities.

National vs Public service

Please note that AmeriCorps members are national service members who take an oath to serve America and get things done for our country.

It's popular to call federal govt employees part of national service. We call them public servants, not national servants.

## National Service

I chose national service b/c of my background and the education awarded. To make ends meet, I lived in a shed and worked nights though it was disallowed.

Nov. 29, 2019

51A Robert Pitt Dr.

Monsey, N.Y.

The National Commission on Military,  
National, and Public Service  
email to [info@inspire2serve.gov](mailto:info@inspire2serve.gov)

### For Draft

- ① made all Americans aware national security was their responsibility, not only that of a few. It made war real!
- ② made security the responsibility of all educational, financial and racial classes; and regions of U.S.
- ③ made available specialty skills like Drs., lawyers, engineers.
- ④ taught skills for general civilian work upon discharge.
- ⑤ taught regimentation, hygiene, proper dress, and patriotism.

### Improve Draft Policy

- ① for servicemen, make federal policy and state income tax the same
- ② make draft years low income not detrimental to social security
- ③ draft youngest age first, not 26 when careers and family suffer

## Draft Experience

① On Nov. 5, 1967, the day of my oral for my Masters Degree in Ceramic Science, I received my draft notice. On Jan 4, 1968 I was in a bad car accident, broke two vertebrae, and out of work for 4 months. On Aug 1, 1969 I was inducted without a physical: said it would occur at basic training (never did)

② After discharge, Union Carbide did everything to make me quit because they had hired a replacement while I was gone. My salary ruined their budget.

P.S. VVA, Inc.: Please email for me. I don't have access

Cordially,  
Norman A. Heeman  
(845) 352-2661