



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

[The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service](#) has solicited input from the public about the topics under its mandate since January 2018. Individuals have shared their views by posting comments on the Commission [website](#), emailing [info@inspire2serve.gov](mailto:info@inspire2serve.gov) or [national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil](mailto:national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil), submitting comment cards at public events, or mailing letters. These public comments supplement research efforts and are one of many factors under consideration as the Commission deliberates its recommendations to the Congress, the President, and the American people.

The Commission is committed to transparency and openness with the public. With that in mind, the Commission will be posting comments received from the public on its website at regular intervals. This document covers all public comments received during the month of April. Future comments will be released on roughly a monthly basis.

There are a few facts about these comments that are important to understand.

- Public comments are posted in the order received with the most recent comment being listed last.
- The comments may address questions or topics posed by the Commission. The views expressed in comments reflect those of the individual or organization who commented and do not represent the official views of the Commission or the federal government.
- Comments are not nationally representative. Additionally, there is no limit to the number of comments a single individual or organization may submit.
- Although the Commission's initial request for comments published in the Federal Register expired (September 30, 2018), the Commission extended the submission of comments until December 31, 2019.

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service posts comments received in their entirety. The Commission applies redactions in limited circumstances to personally identifiable information, such as personal email address and phone numbers. The Commission reserves the right to redact language that poses a threat to individuals. Posting of public comments does not constitute an endorsement of any views expressed therein or of the content of any external links that members of the public have included in their comments.

The Commission welcomes comments from the public on any aspect of the Commission's mission and feedback on the staff memorandum released prior to the Commission's public hearings. Please submit your comments at <https://inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts> by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 31, 2019.

Date	Comment
4/2/2019	The draft is no longer needed and is inefficient with today's technology. Lets just look at the quality of data that you revive. Young men (and may or maybe not women) register around their 18th birthday. General, these young people are living with their parents/guardians and within a year or so they will move out and on their own. How many change of address requests does the Selective Server receive annually? Some might assume that your 18th birthday address will get to you because your parents/guardians will still be there. However the reality is, many parents will delay employment changes so that their kid(s) can finish high school with the peers they grew up with. It seems a more effectuate way is if (hopefully if not when) the Draft is needed, just call up the IRS and ask for a list of eligible persons. You would have their age and the most current address in a simple database query.
4/3/2019	I believe strongly that it is time for the requirement to register with Selective Service to come to an end, for both men and women. In this 21st century, with no likelihood of a military draft being reinstated given the political situation in recent decades in which there is zero political will to reinstate the draft; and given the fact that digital technology and communications have made any kind of registration process unnecessary because virtually every citizen and resident of the United States may be located at will at any time, the SSS system is outmoded and should be eliminated.
4/5/2019	<p>While I do believe that our nation needs to be protected, I feel that the draft is an outdated law. Today's military relies on advanced weapons technology, not foot soldiers, in order to defeat the enemy. IF there was a national emergency Congress could pass an authorization requiring citizens to serve. When we look at countries like Israel and Chile that have mandatory draft of all citizens into the military, it creates a huge burden and expense. Again, with technology and a professional military, this is unnecessary.</p> <p>Regarding women in the draft, women undoubtedly provide a valuable service in the military. However, I do not feel that all women should be drafted. What are mothers that are raising families going to do if drafted? Someone needs to be able to preserve the family unit. So perhaps there should be an exemption for any married women or women with children from the draft.</p> <p>Regarding a National Service in general, it should be optional, but I see great value in that. Military provides a much needed structure that is missing from so many people in broken homes and communities. If these people could be focused and help the national good (not overseas like the Peace Corps) then it would be a benefit to our country. I would propose that this service have a minimum compensation and potential educational benefits, just like our military offers.</p> <p>Thank you, John Ramey, Dallas, TX</p>
4/5/2019	Women should be required to register as well as men. Equal means equal. Service is service. It's not an issue of combat or not. Men are required to register to get college loans, so should women. Once trained they would be as valuable as men as drone operators, computer security experts, or whatever the modern military needs. In a national emergency, it would be invaluable to be able to identify qualified individuals quickly, regardless of sex.
4/6/2019	My name is Andrew Barber, I'm 21 and from Norman, Oklahoma. I would plead with the commission to repeal the Selective Service System lock, stock, and barrel. Many of the most vulnerable men in our society are not able to attend college because they didn't register for selective service. An all-volunteer force has been a complete success, and America doesn't fight wars of attrition anymore. I'm also against a system of compulsory community service. This is another case of "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." Thank you.

4/8/2019	I am veteran of the US Army, with two sons registered for the Selective Service, and a 16 year old daughter. While I do think "draft registration" has outlived its intended purpose, I am not opposed to the requirement of my sons having to register. I am, however, strongly opposed to having my daughter register upon her 18th birthday, and would consider civil disobedience if she were forced to do so. It is simply barbaric to force women into the violence of war, and since there are no longer any restrictions on the assignment of women to combat units, that mean my daughter may be subject to compulsory combat duty. This may not be wrong to many as social mores change, but it is wrong to me and I would venture to millions of others. If there were to be compulsory service for all, to include females, then there must be some sort of protections on the type of duty assigned to women.
4/8/2019	A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is NOT and should NOT be mandatory!
4/9/2019	SOS America Essential Elements Commission Members and Staff: My name is Harold Woods, Senior Director of SOS America (Service over Self). <a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a> 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-- <a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a> -Service over Self. Thank You
4/9/2019	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 <i>Welsh vs. United States</i> , 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

	<p>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 try 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 <i>Gillette v. United States</i>, "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, Gwen Moore MEMBER OF CONGRESS</p>
4/9/2019	<p>To whom it may concern:  I would like my statement of support for President Donald Trump and his Transgender Policy for our military to be submitted and noted. I am a proud American and supporter of our courageous self-sacrificing military personnel and I expect that our top priority for them is the best of health and moral for all involved with their safety and ability to carry out their duties.  Thank you,  Mrs. Faflik</p>
4/9/2019	<p>Dear Inspire to Serve Commission</p> <p>Please recommend to abolish the Selective Service Registration. It is an outdated system, as well as morally wrong. No one should be forced to service if not of their own volition. Vietnam era was a travesty and we are still dealing with the after effects of that draft. We should learn from that history. We each have our God-given gifts and purpose, and those who feel called to serve in military capacity have that right, just as those who do not feel that calling should not be forced especially in combat situations, (as a side note, no good comes from forcing someone to do something they oppose). Many serve their communities and fellow man every day while not employed by the US government. Secondly, if there is an issue to arise, the American people have proven time and again (example post 9/11) that we will rise up for just causes that truly do threaten country without instituting a draft. This is governmental overreach, and while I understand the argument as an "insurance policy" and the government ability to "call up an army," there are much more civilized ways to raise an army. Examples are providing a great life for those who serve, incentivize, bonuses, etc.</p> <p>Please recommend to Abolish Selective Service Registration requirement.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
4/10/2019	<p>I don't want mentally and emotionally unhealthy person serving in the military.</p>

4/10/2019	<p>Compulsory "service" is an affront to a free society, and all the more so when it is utilized to aid and abet the US war machine to execute its fraudulent War_of_Terror.</p> <p>John DiLiberto USMC Reserves Veteran Wilkes-Barre, PA</p>
4/10/2019	<p>Good afternoon. I write this to you as an individual who has failed to register with the Selective Service System. I have, on more than one occasion, found myself in front of doors which have been permanently closed to me due to this. I was a consistent underachiever in my high school years, barely graduating. Shortly after my twenty ninth birthday, I made the decision to turn my life around, and discovered the gravity of my failure to register. I was denied financial aid when deciding to return to school, and had to seek other, not so affordable, means of securing admission to a school. Recently, I was denied a security clearance at my current employer, which may ultimately cost me my job, or force me to look elsewhere before that happens. It's terrifying knowing that there are states in the union where I am unable to move, as I'll be denied a license or identification card, making life beyond poverty nearly impossible. Despite this, I concede that I must suffer some consequences for my failure. I agree that the MSSA acts as a deterrent to those who might otherwise not think twice about threatening this country, and why some feel it is essential to prove that the union is at a constant state of readiness. I feel that the freedoms we're afforded in this nation are often taken for granted. Being so far removed from the injustices and atrocities that occur worldwide every day, it is difficult for citizens of this nation to truly understand how rare and precious these freedoms are. These freedoms have been preserved by young men and women who have given their lives so that we may enjoy them, and prosper. This being said, I also feel that people would be more receptive to the idea of service to their communities and the nation if they were not "forced" into registering. Today, most states have passed legislation automatically registering individuals when they apply for a drivers license. I've come across young men who had no idea they were even registered with the SSS, and therefore, eligible to be drafted if a bill was passed initiating conscription. Another factor which shapes my opinion is the fact that there are less fortunate people out there in lower income communities who are not provided the resources to register or even have knowledge of the system itself, let alone the consequences that come along with it. There is no recourse for those who failed to register, which I think should be addressed. Perhaps a couple years of community service, where those who participate could learn valuable lessons as well as provide services to their communities. I think it's time to look at the MSSA as a whole, and decide if the system in its current format is justifiable. Outreach programs which encourage service to our nation and it's communities would in my opinion, be far more effective than the current system, wherein people who are completely uninterested, unformed, or unwilling are forced into something they don't necessarily understand. Thank you.</p>
4/11/2019	<p>High possibility of survival and preservation can increase chances of wanting to serve. If wars are about American survival it can be worth the trade off. Please determine what it takes to serve and don't modify it to sound like an equal opportunity employer, however valuable that may be in ordinary jobs, the military is different. Either people can survive or they can't and they need to know the truth--that's true fairness. Women, like me, won't appreciate being lied to, nor will they appreciate being burned through at faster rates in a draft, or forced labor in supporting roles. The mental health crisis going on is making drafts look far less effective in preserving America. Once it was an insurance policy and America was resilient enough, but now it's going to hurt people of all ages. It appears that Hollywood is warping reality here about</p>

	women and the pressure is on to give way to propaganda. Hearing about women in combat roles is no longer cool, it's like being told women were made slaves or assaulted. Just look at world records and you'll see the huge disparity between the strongest women and the strongest men, as well as true military stories. It's going to hurt American morale if women are disproportionately dying.
4/11/2019	I did serve as an infantryman in Vietnam, 1970-1971. I believe a draft in times of necessity is a good thing, maybe even in other times (but of course one would not need to rely as much on a draft). I also believe that nearly every military occupation, if not every one, can be done as well or better by a woman than a man. I would probably stop well short of drafting women into the combat arms of infantry, armor, and artillery, but if remember correctly those military occupational specialties are only maybe 5% to 10% of the total anyway. I'd let any who felt led to do so and could physically do it volunteer for it, though. Might not be a bad idea to enforce some sort of birth control in certain circumstances, but I'll let greater minds than mine work on that one.
4/11/2019	I am contacting you to voice my opinion about whether or not the Selective Service System is necessary.  As you know, a recent federal court decision ruling the male-only registration requirement to Selective Service System as unconstitutional. I understand the Commission encourages public comments regarding recommendations to the draft registration. I recommend Congress end the registration entirely because it places a substantial, yet unnecessary burden onto anyone required to register. The U.S. Military has all-volunteer since 1973 making any registration unnecessary for over forty years. Additionally, the current registration coerces young men to register with the Selective Service with disturbing threats of losing federal student aid, job training, federal jobs, or even citizenship.  It is very burdensome for young men to enter adulthood to confront threatening governmental coercion to register. If this registration included women, they would be unnecessarily harmed by this coercion in the same way. I say all of this to encourage Congress to permanently end the registration requirements for the Selective Service System. Thank you for your attention.
4/11/2019	My thoughts are that public service should not be compulsory but should be better incentivized and marketed, to youths at younger ages through school programs/outreach. If it were compulsory there would be many that would grow as a result, but also many simply unfit to serve that would turn the program into a government babysitter for young adults and reduce the public image of service as something nobly chosen. I strongly support raising the stipend so that those who serve do not have to constantly experience financial stress. Thank you for considering my thoughts.
4/12/2019	Equal means equal. Women should be required to register as well as men. The needs of the modern military include many roles that do not require direct combat. Women are as capable as men of being drone operators, cyber-security experts, and many other roles in the technological age. The title of this hearing is presumptive that they are not equal to men is contrary to common sense and needs of the age. If the SSS is limited to men only, I will be resigning as a SSS board member. Gerald R DeMaagd, former USMC veteran, SSS Region 1, MI, 004, Board 283.
4/12/2019	No Draft...absolutely UnAmerican

4/12/2019	<p>The Junior ROTC and National ROTC programs were stopped Why? Make Junior ROTC mandatory for all high school students. All schools, religious, private, charter, public. Along with Junior ROTC comes public service. Mandatory unless for medical reasons. ROTC for all college students. I know the reason for the ROTC programs but the framework of those programs can be changed to suit today's times. Don't make it mandatory to serve in the military at the end of graduation. There are so many graduates from high school that either don't want to go to college or don't know what they want to do with their life. Something like Junior ROTC will give them purpose, time to figure out what they want to do, keep them from being dropouts and out of trouble. Many grads today need a few years to finish growing up and maybe Junior ROTC will help them before graduation from high school. This may work or not but I think many will choose to enlist after graduating from high school</p> <p>I know there will be a lot of push back but to tell the truth if my son was alive now and in school, I would rather have him in an ROTC program and learn the basics of training to be a member of the military. At least, God forbid, there were a reason to draft for service I would at least know that he had some training and knew the basics of being in the military instead of being absolutely uneducated about what he is facing. He will be better equipped to listen, learn, behave and maybe to lead when going through basic training and further from there. Knowing my son's personality he would probably would have gotten out of ROTC and enlist in one of the military branches. My daughter would most likely be right behind him in going through ROTC and enlisting.</p> <p>All schools should be teaching different levels of civic courses from 3rd or 4th grade through high school graduation. (I am on some discussion boards and I'm amazed how many young people have no idea how our government works.)</p> <p>Civic knowledge and public engagement are at an all-time low. A 2016 survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center found that only 26 percent of Americans can name all three branches of government, which was a significant decline from previous years.<sup>1</sup> Not surprisingly, public trust in government is at only 18 percent<sup>2</sup> and voter participation has reached its lowest point since 1996.<sup>3</sup> Without an understanding of the structure of government, our rights and responsibilities, and the different methods of public engagement, civic literacy and voter apathy will continue to plague American democracy. Educators and schools have a unique opportunity and responsibility to ensure that young people become engaged and knowledgeable citizens.</p> <p>A 2016 survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center found that only 26 percent of Americans can name all three branches of government, That is sad!</p> <p><a href="https://www.aft.org/ae/summer2018/shapiro_brown">https://www.aft.org/ae/summer2018/shapiro_brown</a></p>
4/12/2019	<p>I do not think women should be required to register for the draft. America is great because of the valor of heroes who defend our nations most fundamental building block, families. If women are required to register for the draft it undermines the purpose for which we fight, to keep families free and protected. To keep homes places of safety and love where Americas children can be nurtured and taught to reverence this great nation and the heroes who defend it. Those women who voluntarily enter the military should be commended, but the rest of the nations women should not be required to abandon another high calling, that of being a mother in the home raising the next generation of Americans.</p>

4/14/2019	I believe that women should be included in the draft if not because of equality in the draft, but for an aid in getting more female interest in general. The whole idea of being included in the draft may help make many women who would not have given a second thought to service actually see the value in enlisting on their own. So in my personal opinion I feel that women should be included in the draft.
4/15/2019	Hello there, I came to America at the age of 35, I am now applying for federal job but is required to have a selective service, what should I do? Thanks
4/18/2019	<p>18 April 2019</p> <p>Dear Members of the Commission:</p> <p>My name is Eryth Zaveria Zecher. I was part of the U.S. Army Reserves for 28 years in both the active reserves and the Individual Ready Reserves as both a 90A and a 12B. During my time in the Army Reserves, I served three tours – two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. I was honorably discharged in 2015 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and then began my quest for a 2nd bachelor’s degree in French followed by double master’s degree in Teaching English and French, which I am currently pursuing at Colorado State University. Because of the GI Bill, I am able to pursue these goals.</p> <p>Should the Commission’s research determine that we still need selective service, then modify it so that all Americans, regardless of gender, aged 18-25 are required to register. It is not logical to exclude a portion of the population of Americans. The current selective service system, because it is exclusive, places those Americans who are excluded at a disadvantage by weakening their ability to participate in this democracy. This country belongs to all of us. Excluding anyone from registering from selective service renders them as being less equal in this country, which is our home. Americans should have the same responsibilities, regardless of gender.</p> <p>Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit comments. I think the work you are doing is very valuable to our country.</p>
4/19/2019	Conscription is nothing more than glorified human slavery. America will never be a free country until it is completely abolished in its entirety, with absolutely no remnants thereof that it ever plagued this nation. A man is not afforded his basic human right to vote without first signing away his life to the military without his consent - women do not share the same responsibility despite retaining the inherent human right to vote. There is no humanly possible way to construe this as anything but sexist slavery, and the complete removal of conscription and total disbandment of the Selective Service is an objective requirement if America wishes to call itself a developed, free nation. The fact that all men over the age of 18 are forced to sign their lives away lest all their human rights be revoked is, with no room for dissent, the greatest human rights violation America currently faces. Abolition of Conscription is the only option. The men of America are not cannon fodder. Men are human, and deserve to be treated as nothing less than human.
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4/19/2019	<p>As long as people agree to go to war there will be perpetual wars. If you do not want war, then don't fight in them.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>I am a member of the selective service, and have been for 10 years. I think we will be needed again, and it is important that we continue our training.</p> <p>My suggestion would be to drop the high school diploma requirement to join the military. I joined the Army infantry back in 1972. I had dropped out of school, and was accepted. Finished high school and started college while in the military, and the GI bill paid for me to finish college after my service. You do not need to be a high school graduate to be a point man in an infantry platoon, or to be in any combat arms position. And, it assist our children when they decide school is not the place for them. Drop the high school requirement to join the military!!!</p>
4/19/2019	<p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>I'd love to see an option of a two year service commitment with various options: Military, CBP, Law Enforcement, TSA, FEMA, HHS, US Forest Service, Charity Work, Schools, even qualified faith-based organizations.</p> <p>In return, vouchers for tuition credit, vocational training, even downpayment assistance for a home loan, could be issued as an additional benefit to this participation.</p> <p>Young people could choose, with guidance from school counselors and family, which option fits their abilities. This gives young people a chance to learn the value of their efforts prior to choosing a career path. After this service, the individual is more mature and ready to value the path they take and will likely choose wisely.</p> <p>People should not be forced into military service if they're not committed to it. Many would be more valuable to society to something more to their liking. Young people are quick learners and have so much to offer. Taking two years to serve before advancing to higher education or vocational training will benefit them as much as the organizations and people they serve. Meanwhile, the voucher could help get them well on their way to preparing for their future, resulting in less debt and higher productivity.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Perhaps, but I hope not. Our current volunteer forces seem adequate unless we get involved on too many fronts. If we even face China or even North Korea we would likely need a draft though. The current Selective Service System seems to be prepared if we need it. In this modern world though I see no reason we shouldn't register both men and women. Military leaders should be trained to assess the skills and abilities of both genders and assign duties accordingly.</p>

4/19/2019	<p>5. Yes, the military draft is a vital pillar to US national security. The framers of our great government recognized the absolute need to have a contingency plan to defend our nation against unforeseen threats. By definition, these threats do in fact exist and we cannot see them yet.</p> <p>6. Modifications are need to the Selective Service system. Since women can now serve in all roles inside the military, they should be required to register for the draft upon their 18th birthday.</p> <p>7. Mandatory service can mean many different things other than solely military service. Americans should be required to register for service in case of a national emergency, but not made to serve unless they are needed to augment volunteers for a given route of service.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>As an anarchist, screw the draft. I should not have my freedom to choose my own path and career in life taken from me because some big wig thinks war is necessary. I don't support war. Never have and never will. If y'all decide to force everyone to sign up for selective service, and the day comes that I might be called to serve in the military in any position, I'd rather commit suicide. The United states is a shit ass country right now and I'm ashamed to be a citizen. If it were affordable, I'd gladly move and become a citizen of a different country. I have an issue with how the rich 1 percent fucks over us working class folks and how I don't get paid a living wage and am dependent on my fiancé to pay our bills. Fuck the military, fuck the police, and fuck the US. Sorry sad pathetic excuse for a country.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>Military draft is slavery, there is no other term for it. As a woman, I do not want my daughters to be drafted. They are females for heavens sakes, there is no way they can compete on a par with males on a physical level. By the same token, I don't want my sons used as canon fodder for another 18 year long war in the Middle East. I suggest if Congress wants to pass draft legislation their children go first. I doubt very much that will happen, it never does unless they are given a cushy office job.</p> <p>My children own their own lives, it is not the place of some official in DC to decide how they are to live it. I do not want my children drafted into some "socialistic social service?. If that is their choice, so be it but it is NOT for you to make that choice for them. I would venture govt pols don't want another Viet Nam anti-war/anti-draft situation on their hands. Think long and hard about this because I suspect there will be lots of protest and very few who agree once they think about what it means. Involuntary servitude was a crime against humanity in the past and it still is.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>For years, I traveled to Brazil on business. Two areas left an impression that applies to the registration issue. One is called "The Hippie Bizarre" located near Rio. The Bizarre was started in the 1960's by young men fleeing the U.S. to avoid the draft. The second is the city of "Americana". This city was originally settled by U.S. citizens fleeing the country following the Civil War and the pending implementation of civil registration. During my service period, thousands of young men fled to Canada to avoid the draft. Can you imagine the rush to our borders should we face another conflict. If the registration of men is considered unconstitutional, include women. If there is an objection to women in combat, utilize their service else where.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>The basic question posed to the Commission is: "Why do we still have the Selective Service System?" It is a fair question with an easy answer: The Selective Service System is our Nation's ultimate insurance policy in that it provides a ready source of personnel for national service should world events dictate such a need. The ability of the Selective Service System to rapidly deliver personnel for national service ensures that all potential adversaries understand both our national resolve and our national mobilization capabilities. Such "messaging" makes clear that</p>

	<p>military aggression by other governments would not result in a strategically positive outcome for those nations and their citizens. In other words, the deterrent effect of registration with the Selective Service System helps keep us safe and at peace.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>In regards to question #2 "How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?"</p> <p>This question should be self-evident. How do you increase the desire to serve? It begins with integrity within the government. If citizens are to be motivated to serve, there has to be a valid reason to serve.</p> <p>If you use today's standards then we will never find a valid reason to serve our country, with all the lying, cheating, treasonous acts by our elected politicians, business leaders, and religious elders. Then definitely there is no reason to serve.</p> <p>But, on the other hand, if we use ourselves as a yardstick as to where we are as a person, then it is up to us, each and every individual here that makes up the standard that we hold up as what is right, what is true, what is fair, and what is worthy to defend.</p> <p>Nothing is restored until one rolls up one's sleeves and participates in this cause of moral duty. Equal justice, with compassion and mercy. It is by our example that others are given clarity in direction by administering the truth through diligence and perseverance, striving to accomplish our set mission and successfully completing the goals and direction that has been set before each of us who chooses to serve our beloved country.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>The Selective Service is absolutely needed by the United States of America. I served 6 years and 3 months in the United States Marine Corps, 1960 to 1966. I served in Viet Nam in 1962.</p> <p>An all volunteer military would be wonderful if we had a world united in peace and citizens were motivated to take up arms to protect us from those that would do us and our allies harm.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>The staff report recommending only men be required to register is short sighted and out-of-date with the needs of today's military. Any global conflict will have a high component of technical and computer skills preceding and during it. Women cyber-security experts can be put to immediate and effective use in today's technical military. It's not like we're putting a rifle in everyone's hands.</p>

4/19/2019	<p>Regarding the issues of increasing the desire to serve and increased ultimate participation, let me propose the following perspectives:</p> <p>First, the concept of "Mother Land" or "Madre Patria" (a son is always ready to give his life to protect the survival and wellbeing of his mother).</p> <p>Second, the inherent "Pride" from being ready to, or from having served your Country/Nation (goal bigger than Self -also an ultimate motivator) and,</p> <p>Third, awareness that confrontations in a "Globalized and highly Connected World" can arise from anywhere and at any time threatening us both outside and "inside" our "national boundaries" (requiring a larger than ever numbers of troops at the ready).</p> <p>These three aspects must be emphasized and given primacy over material benefits, penalties and even the law itself. This and only this prioritization will give the long term commitment and numbers, and not only from our youth but also from our adult population, that we need. Of course we must also recognize and openly so, that in our past "political players" have driven our Armed Forces to defend "Special Interests" under the guise/cover of "National Interests" and at the expense of our youths' life, their families and derived future generations.</p> <p>Mario E. Delgado District Appeal Board Member Region: 2; ST: GA; Area Office:011; BRD Number: 519</p>
4/19/2019	<p>Regarding the issues of increasing the desire to serve and increased ultimate participation, let me propose the following perspectives:</p> <p>First, the concept of "Mother Land" or "Madre Patria" (a son is always ready to give his life to protect the survival and wellbeing of his mother).</p> <p>Second, the inherent "Pride" from being ready to, or from having served your Country/Nation (goal bigger than Self -also an ultimate motivator) and,</p> <p>Third, awareness that confrontations in a "Globalized and highly Connected World" can arise from anywhere and at any time threatening us both outside and "inside" our "national boundaries" (requiring a larger than ever numbers of troops at the ready).</p> <p>These three aspects must be emphasized and given primacy over material benefits, penalties and even the law itself. This and only this prioritization will give the long term commitment and numbers, and not only from our youth but also from our adult population, that we need. Of course we must also recognize and openly so, that in our past "political players" have driven our Armed Forces to defend "Special Interests" under the guise/cover of "National Interests" and at the expense of our youths' life, their families and derived future generations.</p> <p>Mario E. Delgado District Appeal Board Member Region: 2; ST: GA; Area Office:011; BRD Number: 519</p>

4/19/2019	I am a firm believer that the Selective Service should be continued. It is a valuable tool in case of war of incidents of some kind. Please add my support to keeping it in place and functioning.
4/19/2019	<p>Democracies Always must be prepared for all contingencies.</p> <p>Especially at this moment of time of world wide economic uncertainty, the backward trends of Russian leadership, the strengthening world influence and long term focus of China, the unknown role of an unstable North Korea not to mention the middle east and Africa being in such flux, it would not take but two of the many uncertainties to place our armed forces at jeopardy for under capacity.</p> <p>A 'draft' if not desired, but the mechanisms that would allow it to be thrown into gear and function well at a moments notice is basic wisdom of all free republics.</p> <p>As it some to exception, if any are to be allowed, it is wise to have a fair trained procedure for what exception the law deems fit. Without this a curse attends the reluctant performance of a duty, that would only erode any already stressful situation requiring a 'draft'.</p> <p>It is my belief that any peaceful democratic country has a target on its back when it comes to tyrants and dictatorships around the world. They are a natural threat. The U.S., being the first in this 'experiment' and ultimately to become the standard thorough its success, makes us the paramount target due to the threat our doctrines pose to tyrants. We must be prepared for all contingencies.</p> <p>Kevin Day</p>
4/19/2019	<p>I wanted to make a brief comment regarding the Selective Service. My opinion is that this agency and it's mission is a vital component of our countries defensive measures. Imagine the dire situation if the President found it necessary to order the activation of conscription. Then imagine the same situation without that as an option. It would leave the United States vulnerable and without a last resort. Arguably, no one ever wants to see a draft again, but also arguably - something is better than nothing. With a budget that is (comparatively) smaller than most agencies, I stand by my conviction that the Selective Service System is both a fiscally smart option, as well as a smart defensive option to keep on the table.</p> <p>-Temple Murphy Lindenhurst, IL</p>

4/19/2019	<p>I support the Selective Service, and the respective panels; in addition I offer the following:  At a Senate Armed Services Committee then, Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley and Marine Corps Commandant General Robert B. Neller articulate their support for women's incorporation into the Selective Service System and to register to serve in the Armed Forces, or in an Alternative Service program, in the event of a national emergency.  General Neller told the Senator it was his "personal view" that "every American who's physically qualified should register for the draft."  In 1981, the Supreme Court ruled that excluding women from registration was constitutional, in part because women were excluded from combat roles....but we opened this up in 2016! Now that women can serve in combat roles, women's participation in the the Selective Service should be mandatory.  In Israel, age and obligation is 18 years of age for compulsory (Jews, Druze) military service; 17 years of age for voluntary (Christians, Muslims, Circassians); both sexes are obligated to military service; conscript service obligation - 32 months for enlisted men and 24 months for enlisted women (varies based on military occupation), 48 months for officers; pilots commit to 9-year service; reserve obligation to age 41-51 (men), age 24 (women) (2015). Why not the US?  There is much talent that can be gleaned for service in our current age of cyber warfare, and even AI. We should bring back a mandatory service assignment for all citizens and expand our talent pool. It is not a matter of IF....but WHEN... we will need "ALL hands on deck."  Sincerely,  Adriane Reeseey  Selective Service Panel Member  Former ARMY Sgt.</p>
4/19/2019	<p>I was drafted and inducted 12-07-1966. I served in Vietnam with C Co 2nd 5th Cav of 1st Cavalry Division. It was hard, but, someone had to do it. The Selective Service System is our nation insurance policy. We have a Volunteer Military and it is buffered by the Guard and Reserve Units. Insurance is needed in everyday life and the Nation and our Civilians deserve every chance afforded them. The SSS is kept up with volunteers at zero cost to Country. Thanks, Micheal F Callahan</p>

4/19/2019	<p>My name is Mark Prizmic. I'm a business economics student at UCI, a residential real estate agent in California, project manager for a TEDx Event, and a proud volunteer board member at the Selective Service System. I've achieved so many things in my life at a young age, and it was all thanks to the freedoms endowed in the United States. My parents are both immigrants to this great country. My mother is from Venezuela and my father is from Croatia. They both struggled with the socioeconomic situations of their countries at the time, but they came to America because they believed in the American dream. The distinct ethereal beauty of the American dream that distinguishes the US from other countries is that no matter where you start out in life, regardless of class, social status, or income, if you work hard enough, with enough determination, you can achieve what would be considered unimaginable in other countries. Your work ethic and tenacity is rewarded, and as a realtor working on commission, I should know.</p> <p>However, as Americans we must understand that we have responsibilities to our country, and that in order to secure these freedoms bestowed upon us, we must be willing to make sacrifices. Having young men reminded that they have the responsibility to protect this country in the event of a national emergency is imperative. The Selective Service System is essentially a war deterrent. As long as foreign rivals are aware that young men across the nation are willing to defend their country if need be, the probability of a foreign country attacking the US is minuscule. The Selective Service System, in many respects, is a symbol that states that the people are willing to unite to defend the safety and liberties of their families and offspring, if the time ever arises. To be rid of Selective Service would not only undermine our national security but would also send an alarming message to the future generations, that there's nothing worth being willing to fight for in the US.</p> <p>I want to help keep the American dream alive, but this cannot be achieved by eliminating the fundamental responsibilities for the people of a strong nation to survive. In economics, we learn that we must work together to optimize output. This is comparable on the macro-scale. We, the people, as a whole must, must be willing to be there for our families, our neighbors, and our country. That is how we unite this country, and that is how we can ensure that the American dream will live on for generations to come.</p>
4/19/2019	Are we the only group whoserves our country without some form of compensation?
4/19/2019	Are we the only group whoserves our country without some form of compensation?

4/19/2019	<p>The SSA requires all males ages 18 to 25 to register for the draft; however, it defines males based on birth sex, not current markers. This forces trans women and gender non-conforming individuals to register for the draft even though they may have transitioned to the female sex. Though it may be controversial, the SSA must be amended to have a basis on current markers, not birth sex, as it can cause distress for TGNC individuals, does not align with the Constitution, and conflicts with current legislation.</p> <p>Many in the trans community want nothing more than to pass, and the SSA's labeling of TGNC individuals as men may present a blow to this. Those who attempt to avoid registering face penalties and issues acquiring government funding including college loans. Thus, we face a dilemma with no good outcome. The TGNC community already has one of the highest mortality rates of any minority, and additional pressure and exposure from laws such as the SSA may have aggravated this. This possible infringement on people's safety and identity brings up the question of Constitutionality.</p> <p>The 5th and 15th Amendments promise all citizens the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and the SSA defining trans women as males arguably infringes on all of these. The dissonance between oneself identifying as a woman or gender non-conforming and the SSA identifying one as male obviously infringes upon the happiness and liberty of an individual. The increased publicity and stress that one might face from this could arguably infringe upon the right to life. Furthermore, the 13th Amendment prohibits indentured servitude or slavery, and the draft forces servitude to the government, violating this. Finally, the SSA in itself is unconstitutional in its current form, regardless of these issues, as seen in <i>National Coalition for Men v. Selective Service System</i>. Further yet, not only does the SSA's definition of trans women as men go against the constitution, but the SSA is also violating current legislation.</p> <p>The current administration has passed a ban on TGNC people serving in the armed forces, but despite the obvious conflict with the ban, trans women still must register for the draft. Which legislation overrules which becomes a complex issue given the current definition of male under the Selective Service System. Clearly, guidance needs to be issued on this.</p> <p>The issues that the outdated SSA presents must be addressed. There are several possible solutions with the most obvious being to amend the SSA to recognize the TGNC community. However, the draft in itself violates the Constitution by making an arbitrary distinction between sexes. Thus, it may be prudent to strike it null and void. However, the likelihood of this noble idea remains out of reach for our current government. Therefore, I implore the SSA to recognize the gamut of genders and sexes that exist and do what it was intended to do: enlist young men and only young men into military service.</p>
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4/20/2019	<p>Selective Service Hearing: How to Meet Potential National Mobilization Needs</p> <p>My name is Kevin, a 23 year old Bay Area Native in California. My experience spans 24 past roles with startups, large enterprise companies, and government agencies for technology projects. Notably, I have interned at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, U.S. Department of Education. I am currently an Intern at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. I am also an SSS board member of Santa Clara County.</p> <p>Service always has value and measurable impact. Potential service however, may be more abstract. However, thinking about this as an insurance policy is one. If our country ever gets into a situation where we need to mobilize all able bodied men to defend not only our own freedom and democracy but those of our allies, we need our selective service program in place to ensure future outcomes.</p> <p>I believe strategic power plays will be increasingly be made against U.S. interests in the near future. Our traditional adversaries are looking to weaken the post-WWII international order by dividing and conquering. Every statement and action by the U.S. has to be strategic and comes at an important opportunity cost.</p> <p>There are many interesting challenges that our country faces in maintaining our relationships with other countries. Remember the Rohingya persecution in Myanmar? A few months ago during a press conference, Vice President Pence criticized Myanmar for their government's inaction. This scrutiny alienated the U.S. from Myanmar. China now grows closer to them through trade deals and diplomatic exchanges. However, not enough scrutiny from the U.S. may hurt its ties with members of the EU who stand for progressive responses towards international crises like this.</p> <p>Remember the murder of journalist Khashoggi? This event was an important test to see how we would react, and I believe we didn't do so effectively. President Trump supports Saudi Arabia as an important partner (notably in terms of military trade deals) but still, many American senators and congressmen criticize Saudi leadership for their accused involvement in the murder. Trump rebuked his intelligence sources which caused a bi-partisan stance against Trump. Through all this division, China was able to come in and secure a working relationship with Saudi Arabia</p> <p>I will say that the resources put into this is pennies compared to future necessities where we might need to activate these elements. Statistically the world is safer than it has ever been, but given our adversaries China, Russia, and Iran are growing with their own military might, the stability of the world could be in danger. China is slowly strangling 3rd world countries with its loans with interest rates which in turn in a late game scenario where the U.S. is at war, China will be able to use these IOU's to benefit their industrial war complex to win. If the U.S. lost in a WWII scenario, we will likely be unseated for decades.</p>
4/20/2019	<p>I feel that every citizen or legal immigrant owes this country a year or two in government service. One year in Military Prep Training, or two years in a non-military role. Severe mental or physical handicap would be the ONLY exception! Everyone on an equal footing, no privileges.</p>

4/20/2019	<p>1) Does service have inherent value? No it does not If so, what is it?</p> <p>2) N/A since we continue to have an all volunteer force.</p> <p>3) There are no barriers.</p> <p>4) N/A since we continue to have an all volunteer force.</p> <p>5) I do not believe the draft is necessary in view of our all volunteer force.</p> <p>6) No modifications are needed with the SSS.</p> <p>7) Has been up till now.</p>
4/20/2019	<p>I do not think anyone should be forced to register for the draft. As a Quaker, mother, and teacher, I oppose to all 18-year olds being claimed by the government for war preparation without their consent. Please abolish the selective service and mandatory registration for all 18-year olds. Thank you.</p> <p>Christine E. Black Charlottesville, VA</p>
4/20/2019	<p>I remember when I turned 18 years old and had to sign up for the draft, this was during Vietnam, I think it not only made me a better person on the outside but also in the military, if you stop the selective service process it will take away the meaning of serving in the military and serving your country</p>
4/20/2019	<p>I remember when I turned 18 years old and had to sign up for the draft, this was during Vietnam, I think it not only made me a better person on the outside but also in the military, if you stop the selective service process it will take away the meaning of serving in the military and serving your country</p>
4/20/2019	<p>In a day and age of uncertainty as to how global events will transpire, it is more than obvious that a system must be in place, should a National emergency require a draft to insure the safety of our homeland. Pearl Harbor should stand out as a shining example of a Nation caught by surprise and unprepared. We can not afford to be caught in this day and age totally unprepared to initiate a draft, should it become necessary. In addition, I feel not only males should register, but females as well. Females can be an effective part of our military as has been demonstrated already. I know mandatory service has not been a requirement in the United States, but I think it is an issue worth exploration for a number of reasons. Character building, patriotism, the ability to have some time after high school to assess one's place in life, learning responsibility and being accountable for one's actions to name a few. The SSS is set up to meet the needs of our Country, should such need arise. They are well managed and have clear guidelines for Board members to follow. It would be unwise to alter an organization ready to go into action and I would strongly hope that the inclusion of females be seriously implemented as part of our system. For the future, mandatory service should be addressed. There are plenty of positives to move in such a direction. Thank you for allowing me to express feelings, relative to the SSS.</p>

4/20/2019	<p>I have been a Broad Member for a number of years, and I consider my duty to be a privilege, and honor the thought of having to really meet and interview young men and maybe women in process of Selective Service.</p> <p>Even if we are never needed to be the 'Draft Board' I feel we need this human interaction and ability to see and hear the cases of those who for whatever reason feel they can't or won't serve in the military.</p> <p>Our task is not something you can give to a computer and make a valid decision.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,  Jeff Haliczzer  Selective Service Board Member  Reno, Nevada</p>
4/20/2019	<p>I am a 71 year old attorney who was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam war and did a two year term of alternative service in Washington, D.C. I make one suggestion to the Commission,</p> <p>1) If registration continues, Selective Service should be required to provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and full rights must be returned to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments.</p> <p>This would make people of conscience in compliance with the law and obedient to their conscience.</p> <p>/s/Thomas S. Neuberger, Esq.  ██████████  Wilmington, DE ██████████</p>

4/20/2019	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? the selective service is necessary to maintain and protect national security should there be a national emergency of such magnitude that the congress would vote with personal courage to re-activate the draft - any congressman voting to re-activate the draft would automatically have their term of service extended by four years - I believe that it should be mandatory that all men and women enter military or public service training within six months after they graduate from high school, or if out of high school reach age 19, whichever comes first</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans to serve? it would be beneficial for all aspects of society to work toward positively representing patriotism and service to country as a core value in schools - reward service in such programs as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea scouts etc., with enlistment bonus and accelerated rank. - increase after service benefits after service by law - job hiring preference, financial housing assistance, education payment or reimbursement, monthly stipend while in school or training on the job, military medical insurance to be used after separation from service - one year for each two years of service,</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? age - should lower the enlistment minimum age with parent consent to 16 and raise the maximum enlistment age to 55 - and after review of certain convictions for criminal offenses allow enlistment after serving sentence and allow judges by law the option at sentencing of enlistment in lieu of incarceration.</p> <p>4. How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation? for critical skills, increase and expand bonuses to enlist and increase starting rank and accelerated promotion of rank by performance review.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft still a necessary component of U.S. national security? It is one of the most important -see answer to question 1.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? yes - it should be mandatory that all women register, there should be no exemption for college students being drafted should the draft be re-activated, - certain medications for attention deficit, depression, anxiety, and others, should not exclude people from military enlistment, particularly since some medications are allowed once serving in the military.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? absolutely, the end of the draft was the beginning of the age of entitlement, there is little thought of duty and service to country - I have confidence that for the good of the country the congress will enact law that will make the selective service mission more successful respectfully, John German, member serving since 1980</p>
4/20/2019	I am now and have always been opposed to a mandatory draft. I believe that conscription is an ultimate act of immortality which forces individuals into participating in the act of taking lives that serves no just purpose.
4/20/2019	I understand in trying to reduce the cost of all programs it is important to do so but I think face to face training needs to be reinstated. As far as generating interest in serving, it seems to me that people don't think there is a need for a draft board when the draft is not active. Most younger people today are born into a time when the draft was never active. maybe for them you need to do more of a tech approach of advertising in on line gaming like war craft and things like that. How can you be interested in something that you did not know exists.

4/20/2019	Dear Sir/Madam: If the draft was reinstated I would favor it only if the rich and powerful were equally drafted as everyone else-unlike the draft during the vietnam war. Sincerely, Richard Morgan [REDACTED] Brookhaven NY [REDACTED]
4/20/2019	Dear Sir/Madam: If the draft was reinstated I would favor it only if the rich and powerful were equally drafted as everyone else-unlike the draft during the vietnam war. Sincerely, Richard Morgan [REDACTED] Brookhaven NY [REDACTED]
4/20/2019	What if we got into war and no one showed up. That's what happen you do away with selective service
4/20/2019	How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans , particularly young Americans, to serve ? More benefits and options. Promote the benefits of college tuition ,learning an trade. Educate the young men via assembles starting in middle school. Public Service announcements which attract young men , advertise on social media too. Mr. R, J. Seman board 13, Pittsburgh Pa.
4/20/2019	I feel that mandatory service requirement for ALL americans should be necessary as the training and discipline is necessary for us as a country to remain the greatest. Currently we do not instill in our youth the proper values that teach them that they must earn the right to everything that they achieve and that they must work for this right, not have it given to them, or worst, but in reality, the way they are now achieving this, is by taking it, not earning it. Perhaps besides the educational incentive, a "bonus" of the government setting up a form of an Individual Retirement Account, never to be able to access it until to those who serve are at the mandatory retirement age. A small IRA for each year they serve, may be a benefit that most are looking for especially since the "defined" and regular benefit packages are not offered any longer.
4/20/2019	As a member of a local Board and as a lifelong Boy Scout, I see the role of the SSS as identical to the motto of the BSA...Be Prepared. The SSS and it's mission is an essential link in the chain of national preparedness and must be maintained.
4/20/2019	I am opposed to having either male or female young adults be required to register for selective service. I do not think people should be penalized for not signing up for the draft. Many people love our country but do not believe that war is an option to resolve conflicts. If people need to register to be eligible for federal jobs or loans, they should have the option to register as a conscientious objector or opt for some alternative service which is life-affirming.
4/20/2019	Currently, there is no way for a young man to indicate at the time of registration with the Selective Service that he is morally opposed to military service and would be a Conscientious Objector. In fact, registration is often done via the individual state providing date from auto license roles or via student loan applications, such that the young man is often unaware he has registered. Please make registration a more overt process and provide a way to indicate that one is a conscientious objector. In any future draft things may happen quickly and this prior information would be useful to the draft process as well as the individual.
4/20/2019	Currently, there is no way for a young man to indicate at the time of registration with the Selective Service that he is morally opposed to military service and would be a Conscientious Objector. In fact, registration is often done via the individual state providing date from auto license roles or via student loan applications, such that the young man is often unaware he has registered. Please make registration a more overt process and provide a way to indicate that one is a conscientious objector. In any future draft things may happen quickly and this prior information would be useful to the draft process as well as the individual.

4/20/2019	<p>Is the selective service system needed? Yes. No great nation can go unprepared or unable to defend itself or its people. Not being activated saves time and money. That is how business is done. What we should be doing is looking at who is recruited, how and why. All women, as well as men should be required to sign up and register for the draft. There is enough work to go around which women can assist in during time of need and necessity. We are not a patriarchal society and need to stop behaving as such. Women provide a vital role to the survival of our country and need to be included. If all men are created equal, then there is no difference. Period. Service of some sort should be mandatory. We have an obligation to our children to make the world and our country a better place to be and our contributions to society are always being scrutinized to we should lead, teach and train for that all to be passed forward. It is feasible... training will enhance availability of skilled people both in and out of service because knowledge carries over... a good foundation leads to a desire to increase and enhance what is already available... medical, logistical and the like... showing our young people a sincere interest in their future is the way to recruit and train future leaders, participants in our republic and an active desire to give back. We need to look to the future of an ever changing face of the populous as well as the world and show our strength as a leading and forward thinking institution, not merely a war machine to those out there who would doubt us and try to undermine our confidence and position in the movement toward tomorrow.</p>
4/20/2019	<p>It has been an honor to be a member of the Board, it is the belief of this citizen that we are always prepared for any sentinel event and the Military Draft is a way to develop a database of potential candidates. However it is also believed that recent events such as marijuana and opiate problems that present significant concerns today and the future. There could be major break downs in essential services and an order will be made to mobilise, we need to be ready.</p>
4/20/2019	<p>We must have the ability to maintain a standing military, the necessary national resources to support it, and to have easy access the necessary additional manpower for a national emergency of any scope including an international armed conflict. The only proven method to provide adequate timely access of available manpower is by the registration process currently in place. The fairest system of the order of conscription is the lottery followed by an opportunity to appeal to a local board for reasons other than those deemed not eligible by statute. But, additional consideration should take into account the fact that most of the youngest eligible registrants have not yet gained a higher education leading to a profession or had an opportunity to learn specialized skills both valuable and economical for any type of service to our country. Perhaps a screening process could identify those with valuable training and skills prior to entry into the military or an alternative service. Also, women should be included in the same process because they have just as much value to our country as men.</p> <p>Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my ideas.</p> <p>David Lamore Framingham, MA Veteran and Local SS Board Member</p>

4/20/2019	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Of course it has inherent value; however, properly determining the value would only be determined by appraising its effects on each individual.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? MODIVATION is of course the key. Just after 09/11 people were greatly motivated due to a sense of patriotism; however, because there did not appear to be an END Game, and the war continued, the motivation dwindled. Generally people must have a rallying point that continues to grow until all is won.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? I believe that for the most part, individuals have three choices after graduation (Grade 12), higher education, job, or the military. If an individual chooses the military, what future choices do they have? Retire from service, exit and seek educational benefits, or exit and get a job. If resources were spent helping and teaching people to compete in the private sector after service, I believe there would be more people vying for an opportunity.</p> <p>How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation? See stated answer, and to compensate these individuals properly; additionally, as education utilizes a specific curriculum for a specific skill ie math for accounting. Perhaps the military can adjust its curriculum for specific skills (Minimal Basic Training for Computer Science Individuals etc).</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? ABSOLUTELY!!!! We may have the power at out control to end any and all wars TODAY, but what about TOMORROW? Should we scrap a system that we have called upon many times before because some feel to be obsolete. I guess the best answer to this question is: How long would it take to reimplement the system from scratch if needed.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? I'm sure there are; however, I am not well versed enough on the subject to give any input.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? My opinion: Necessary = NO - Valuable = YES - Feasible = NO.</p>
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<p>4/20/2019</p>	<p>The existence of the Selective Selective System is crucial to our nation. It's our Third Tier of National Defense and must not be compromise at any time for any reason. It's our Nation's insurance policy - a "Must Have", a "Need" and ready at anytime in and event of National Emergency.  Joseph C. REYES, State Director, SSS  MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</p>

4/20/2019	<p>Service to our nation is extremely important. The Selective Service as a standby origination is valuable if needed in the future. It would take too long to start from the beginning if the need arose. It is better to be prepared than try to play catch up.</p> <p>Encourage National Service through education of patriotic conservative values in school Teach correct American history lessons. Not rewritten liberal lies.</p> <p>The barriers to public service is the education system that teaches that America is the problem with the world. "America is the evil of the world". American exceptionalism should be taught. We can make the world a better place by leading by example.</p> <p>The Draft is not necessary at the current time but the ability to start up again at moments notice is necessary.</p> <p>National Service for all would be valuable if there were more none military opportunities for young people to obtain education credit. Some people will not qualify for military service. These persons should have an opportunity to obtain assistance in education through National service.</p>
4/20/2019	<p>The US doesn't know how to keep it's nose out of other people's wars. It thinks it's the world police. And I'm not going to become one of Trump's SS officers; or any presidents for that matter.</p>
4/21/2019	<p>Both men and women should have to register. Women have been great leaders in the military and women should be required to register.</p>

4/21/2019	<p>1. Service serves the individual as well as the country. Discipline and responsibility are attributes the military teaches well.</p> <p>2. Be fair and equitable. Today's youth don't differentiate between men/women as they have historically. Require EVERYONE to register. Maybe States could make registration a requirement of a Drivers License and the age could be lowered to 16 for registrants.</p> <p>3. The barriers differ. Historically low pay and low benefits were a barrier to military service. Today's youth view public service as beneath them and "why should we do it when we can sit home and play video games?". They are not jobs they want because it may entail work. They need to be taught that work is beneficial and that they can succeed. Military is a great place to learn that you can succeed!</p> <p>4. Draft by occupation, or by college major. A draft that just takes random bodies in peace time is detrimental as we must train, feed, house, care for them when their skills may not be compatible with needs.</p> <p>5. A draft is absolutely necessary. We cannot depend on our military doing multiple tours. It isn't fair and takes a great toll on families and the individuals. Without a draft or draft contingency we could not react to a national emergency. It takes 6-12 months to train someone in the military, we may not have the luxury of that time, and without the SSS in place and ready we could never respond quickly enough. Actually, if a national emergency happened today, we couldn't respond with a million bodies in less than 2-3 years (IMHO)</p> <p>6. YES! It MUST include everyone!</p> <p>7. YES (to all parts)! Mandatory Service is common in many other countries. People would receive skill training, expertise, confidence, and we would be prepared for a national emergency. Education is critical, start with training the trainers. Teach skills that can be used to build the necessary housing and education centers. These skills should also transfer to the public sector, and the public sector could receive a tax credit to offset the cost of hiring these people. In exchange for mandatory services 2 years of junior college costs should be covered, and the junior colleges might be where the training is done. Thus, mandatory service could provide college credits.</p>
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4/21/2019	<p>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,</p> <p>First of all, the U.S.A. is not a Democracy. It is a combination Plutocracy/ Oligarchy. The U.S. political, military, industrial complex that wants to control and dominate the entire world, has some 1000 military bases and facilities located in over 160 countries abroad. Every U.S. citizen taxpayer contributes, finances and enables this phenomenon whether they want to or not. If they don't pay their taxes, they will be fined, jailed or both for non compliance to the I.R.S. tax code. That's not freedom but tyranny. The U.S.A. is a war nation with a war economy and has been such ever since 1776.</p> <p>The U.S. Selective Service System is a crime against all humanity. This is involuntary servitude. Or in other words, SLAVERY. No human being should ever be forced and coerced against their will to kill a so called government enemy for the ideological lies of war that ALL governments engage in via propaganda and cultural conditioning of it's citizens from birth to death. Using nationalism and patriotism as further tools and weapons of war to indoctrinate and brain wash the young, innocent, naive, gullible, unknowing and ignorant among the population.</p> <p>Your commission is a fraud and scam and you don't even know it. Your being used and manipulated by the Architects of War in society to rationalize and justify having women register with the S.S.S and then as volunteerism begins to decline after 2020, reactivate the S.S.S. classification system to once again reinstate military conscription as phase 2 of the 21 century begins. As U.S. Hegemony moves into another dimension for world conquest. Anybody who buys into your commission is a fool. Don't ever forget what the ALLIED and AXIS powers of WWII accomplished together. Yes, that's right, the slaughter of between 70 and 85 million human beings in a 6 year period.</p> <p>War is organized murder sanctioned by government rule of law. All wars are a lie, as well as everything they touch in society and are linked too. This commission is exploitation, opportunism, propaganda, duplicity and an eventual death trap for all those who will witness their loved ones dying for the great lie of war, which the U.S. is and promotes.</p>
4/21/2019	<p>Voluntary military recruitment seems under increasing duress, aggravated by their own (check Commander in Chief) self imposed decisions to eliminate various individuals on the basis of sexuality. A general draft is a nonsense solution for national protection, which in the near future will require LESS people power and more high tech power. Many (if not most) of the weaponry of the past is already obsolete. Damage to any enemy can be accomplished much more swiftly with technology interruption than live fire weapons.</p> <p>Regarding proposals for a mandatory service requirement for ALL American citizens, while not necessary, has value IF not limited to only a military option (which violates the conscience and morality of millions of individuals). Whether a foreign experience representing the USA (such as the Peace Corps) or within US borders (AmeriCorps, etc.), any experience outside one's sphere of comfort will provide educational value, often of life-course-altering intensity.</p>

	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my input.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ralph Myer  </p>
4/21/2019	How do you become a Commission?
4/21/2019	The draft is unconstitutional. Right to life, liberty, and property yet you could end my life via war whenever you want.
4/21/2019	Yes.
4/21/2019	It is my belief that all Americans should serve at least two years in the defense of our great Country. There many ways that can be done. It is my belief that young people really grow up quickly by serving our country in some form or other learning how to take care of oneself and realizing each of us has responsibilities in order to prosper later on in life. You have to cut the apron strings and take care of yourself and not rely on parents to help you along. Take two years and learn a little about the outside world, and then you may be ready for college or to start your own business. This would be a great benifit to our country and yourself. The services of our great military help to empower one to learn the facts of life and what can be expected of each of us. One can grow in self esteem and self worth and learn how to get along with others in demanding situations. Teamwork, friendship, and leadership skills are needed on a daily basis if you are to succeed in life. These are great virtrues we all should embrace.
4/21/2019	Beautiful. Awe inspiring. Empowering. Makes me proud in the great American government. We shall stand strong together once More bretheren and sisteren, let us prey upon the weak and prosper to the golden era! I love the American populous and I shall channel my energy unto thee. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

4/21/2019	<p>The US Selective Service System serves as a critical component of national defense should a national emergency ever arise. Today, both men AND women should be subject to mandatory registration under the USSS, considering women are a critical component of our national defense in 2019.</p> <p>Over the past 40+ years, the media has been less than helpful promoting the patriotism and selflessness of individual service to our country. Such service should be mandatory rather than voluntary. In my opinion, it has been the elimination of mandatory service to our nation which planted the seeds of low self esteem, leading to the rapid rise of illicit drug usage and decline of community and national values. Service to our country should teach and inspire, as well as help shape responsible citizenship.</p> <p>Barriers to national service can be addressed by creating a level field upon which national service is required. Exceptions can look to our historical experiences, such as mental incapacity, criminal convictions, and other historical limitations to government service.</p> <p>Learning new skills and enhancing existing skills should inspire our youth to serve our nation. This makes it possible to have an opportunity for service and self-improvement driven by the needs of our nation.</p> <p>The military draft and draft contingency are CRITICAL components of our national security and can serve as the structure to implement mandatory national service be it military or other national service.</p> <p>I defer to current leadership of the USSS to determine the necessity and/or value of making modifications to the current skeletal structure in existence since 1973.</p> <p>To summarize, mandatory national service for ALL Americans can add structure and purpose to many young lives struggling with 'purpose', the vacuum created since 1973 has driven the demand for illegal drugs, bankrolled the global narcotics cartels by creating "demand". Mandatory national service will help significantly reduce the demand for illegal narcotics replacing such demand with purpose, patriotism, pride in self-accomplishment and teaching respect for each individual and celebrating how many different people from all walks of life can be united as patriotic citizens rather than focusing on everyone's differences.</p> <p>We are Americans first and foremost, and secondarily we identify with personal characteristics. Thr reverse order will destroy the fabric of our national identity.</p>
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4/21/2019	<p>Dear Commission members. I encourage you to continue to fully support the Selective Service System for the United States of America. There has been tremendous progress made by the Selective Service System by keeping all its volunteer members informed through education and training requirements and regular communication efforts. The Selective Service System is an enduring and critical link to our National Defense. Registration remains a rite of passage to adulthood and civic responsibility. It also serves as a sign of solidarity to the all-volunteer military. The Selective Service System is America's number one insurance policy.</p> <p>Sincerely,  Fernando Lecuona III  Local Selective Service System Board Member  Nebraska</p>
4/21/2019	<p>My name is John German and I have been a member of the Local Draft Board since 1980. I served in the US Army on active duty as a Tank Crewman from 1976 through 1980. I left comments yesterday and would like to expand my responses to question 5 and question 7. As I stated in my earlier response, the end of the draft was the beginning of the "age of entitlement", there is little thought of duty and service to country.</p> <p>The only check against sending the country to war ended when the draft was eliminated. President Johnson had pondered making Vietnam a volunteer deployment only. If he had done so, one wonders how long we would have been there.</p> <p>President Bush knew we didn't have the troop strength to wage war on two fronts, in Iraq and Afghanistan. He turned to Vice President Cheney to find a way to accomplish this goal. He did this with a two-prong approach. We activated many National Guard Units that would have never been called to service had troop strength been adequate, and we privatized the war by civilianizing many support operations. The lack of a draft caused many soldiers to be deployed multiple times, like my nephew who was deployed to Iraq three times and to Afghanistan once. He became burned out, mostly from what he talked about, because of survivor's guilt and left the service and suffers from PTSD.</p> <p>Unless you have a loved one in the service, in order to help you realize the length of these wars, let me offer this, that there are children who were in preschool on September 11, 2001, who are now leaving the service after serving a three-year enlistment. So, since the end of the draft we have sent troops to Grenada, Beirut, Libya, Panama, First Persian Gulf, Kuwait and Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Philippines, Second Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, ISIS, Libya again, I may have missed some others, but the point is unless you know someone in the service, nobody notices these wars, and nobody cares.</p> <p>We appease our conscience by saying "Support the Troops", or "Thank you for your Service" or putting yellow ribbons on our bumpers, or wearing RED on Fridays, to "remember everyone deployed".</p> <p>Something is missing from our democracy and it is the notion of "duty and service to our country". We started down a slippery slope when the draft was ended, and if we continue it will only be a matter of time before we will cease to exist as a nation.</p> <p>The added benefit in having a draft is that our representatives in congress will have input from the electorate as to whether there is support for or against authorizing military action or making a declaration of war.</p>

	<p>It will take bold and brave action by congress to re-institute the draft. I encourage all members of congress to act with personal courage and without self-interest and do the right thing for the good of the nation.</p>
4/21/2019	<p>Former local board member of Gloucester County NJ. I am now a resident of Greene County TN and would like to know if you can connect me with a local board here. Joseph H Vincent  ██████████ REGION:1 ST: NJ AREA OFF:001 BRD NUMBER:003 ██████████  New address ██████████ Greeneville TN ██████████ Thank You</p>
4/21/2019	<p>The Selective Service System is a key aspect of National Defense and Readiness. The registration of young men should be supplemented by the registration of all young women in the spirit of both public service and gender equality. The Selective Service System exists, in part, to ensure those able to serve do so in the most appropriate manner to meet the needs of the United States.</p> <p>Our volunteer military is a key aspect of defense, but the standby forces managed by Selective Service could prove essential in a time of war.</p>

4/21/2019	<p>I do not believe we need to have a draft system any longer. It burdens young people to register, and if they do not, they face severe penalties. Yet the system has not been used for military purposes for many years now, and it appears it never will be again, due to the changed nature of warfare.</p> <p>Why put young people at risk when the draft no longer serves any real purpose? Adding a requirement that women also register would just be compounding the problem.</p> <p>Also, if a requirement to register is retained, then at least create an appropriate option for people who are conscientiously opposed to registering for military service. The current regulations related to conscientious objection only relate to serving in the military, but some young people are also opposed to register on grounds of conscience, and they end up being penalized by losing out on educational and other benefits on account of that. I am a Quaker and I encounter those young men from time to time. The system is unfair to those men. The simplest way to solve the problem, of course, would be to terminate the requirement to register for a system that no longer serves any legitimate state interest.</p> <p>Thank you for offering this opportunity to express my views on this. Cushman D. Anthony Yarmouth, Maine</p>
4/21/2019	<p>I am a 70 year old woman. Over the course of my lifetime, I have learned much about what my values are and where my primary loyalties are and it is not in supporting war. I do believe we have the right to directly defend ourselves if attacked - as in Pearl Harbor. Most of the wars we have engaged in over my lifetime have not, in my opinion, been justified. I would never want to hurt another person. If someone came to my house and threatened me, I would use pepper spray to protect myself - not a gun. When human beings are being attacked, we feel fear, and anger and REACT in that space. I would never want to harm another human being - even if I felt it was justified in the moment. I only want to deter and make the aggressor go away. I think it is the definition of insanity that we allow a government to dictate that we go to some foreign country and attack someone we don't even know. Ludicrous. And I would absolutely leave this country if mandated to kill for my country. It is not in the heart of most men to kill other men. Young people are brainwashed - by their country and often by family members to kill - in the name of freedom, being a man etc. and I 100% am opposed to these teachings. I do believe in service to country. There are many ways to serve - building structures, repairing roads, helping the elderly, volunteer firefighting to name a few. We don't have a mandated way to serve in a healthy way for young adults and I do believe this would be good for every young American. But - to say young people need to show support for their country by killing is just wrong! Thank you for listening. Dodie Moquin</p>
4/21/2019	<p>I am pro-peace! Spend money on diplomacy and world hunger! With no war, there is no need for a draft!</p>
4/21/2019	<p>Why are we having this discussion? The 14th amendment ended slavery. Conspiring to violate the US Constitution is a felony.</p> <p>Please cease and desist all activity in support of conscription. End draft Registration immediately. We are not asking. I outlived conscription in my time, I won't allow it to rob my grand children of their future.</p>

4/22/2019	If men are required to sign up in order to vote then so should women. Women also serve in the military now and with equality at its peak, there's no reason to limit war time pawns to just young men when one of our next presidents will be a women and a women who will be sending both men and women to war.
4/22/2019	I've been on this committee for a very long time and I think that we should have more in house training, I've only been aloud to actually attend one face to face training, I believe it would help me and other members to get onsite training to do a good job. Dana Robinson
4/22/2019	I've been on this committee for a very long time and I think that we should have more in house training, I've only been aloud to actually attend one face to face training, I believe it would help me and other members to get onsite training to do a good job. Dana Robinson
4/22/2019	<p>As a member of Selective Service and a Veteran I wish to express my concerns over the possibility of the elimination of this much needed service. The number one concern is the relationship and the communication of selective service to the people of the United States. Our nation has always been a nation of the people, and for the people, with the possibility of war. The American people must be willing to express their concerns, and thoughts, having a voice regarding serving in the military is something that hardly any other country offers.</p> <p>Our nation and military must always be the military of its people and practice the bases of a free nation. We I hope understand that war is a four letter word, it is the last straw on the camel back as to say. War is the killing of the other person, war is not surrendering, and it is something all governments must take as a last step in its process of negotiation. Or the protection of its principles, we as a free nation must be reachable by its people, or all will fall.</p> <p>At the same time, unless the government, or the Commission is willing to support Selective Service with the funds it needs, training, public relations, and outreach into the local communities. Than the branch should be eliminated and closed, for at the present condition it is of little use. Selective Service must be a supported, it is a communication tool, it is for the people and for the military. A voluntary military during any draft must have a Selective Service process.</p> <p>More funds will be needed to update the service to the modern military and public needs, it can not and should not be a shoe string service. For it is the only voice that the inductees and parents will have as the needs of our military grows, and I believe as well as the Commissioners another war is certain in our times. Lets be prepared, as some will say, remember Pearl Arbor, and yes History does repeat itself...don't let us get caught with our pants down. God Bless the United States.</p>

4/22/2019	<p>Former generations faced this “rite of passage” to adulthood, as they turned 18 and were proud to register for possible conscription into the armed services. Many times young men have pronounced: “I’m old enough, see I have my draft card.”</p> <p>This process should not end due to our volunteer army. Service to our country is and should be a source of pride, regardless of today’s political climate.</p> <p>With all the mercenaries, which at times seemed to sprout like crabgrass, expenditures for the military have increased exponentially.</p> <p>Yet, who is to say the current world order, with the potential for outbreaks requiring military intervention in a multitude of “hot spots” simultaneously wouldn’t stretch the volunteer army to a breaking point?</p> <p>Other countries are flexing their muscle. They’re intervening in South America, Africa, Asia and Europe as well. A well stocked military in the United States would do well to keep us involved and prepared to meet the challenges ahead.</p> <p>For this reason, keeping the Selective Service and the potential of reinstating the draft, should not be terminated.</p> <p>Gilbert Sambolin District Appeal Board Region 1 NY Area 037 Brd 558</p>
4/22/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The value of the selective service lies in readiness in case of need.</li> <li>2. The U.S. can increase desire to serve by public awareness marketing campaigns.</li> <li>3. Barriers to participation are compensation related, lack of location choice, and loss of some personal freedoms.</li> <li>4. The U.S. can increase participation by making public service mandatory.</li> <li>5. The draft is still an important part of national security.</li> <li>6. The selective service system is loosely organized at the local level with infrequent meetings. Meetings in person or via computer/phone conference should be held at least once per year.</li> <li>7. A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is necessary, valuable, and feasible. The U.S. as a whole and it's citizens on a personal level could benefit from working together for the common good.</li> </ol>
4/22/2019	<p>Selective Service is a very valuable commodity for any U.S. I assist in keeping a head count of the men whom are not in the military just in case their is a national emergency. This agency is needed more now then ever! With so much terrorism going on men need to know their value of how signing up is imperative to their country. Many of the people that call in to the agency are not aware of the agency or just think its signing up for the military. This goes to show you how uneducated the public is about the agency. Signing up is a privilege! An Honor to know if something comes toward the United States we are covered! The new generation as well as the old need to be more educated on the meaning! And the understanding of what they can miss out on if they do not register! More man/women power need to be given to the Agency to succeed on the mission! Time has change since 1980! And Selective Service needs the man power to keep up with these changes to provide the most accurate and precise information to our customers. The men of the United States</p>
4/22/2019	<p>A mandatory service requirement of two years for young people at age 21, provided they have a choice of national such as Americorps, foreign, such as Peace Corps, or military service would be valuable for them and for our country. It should come with equal benefits for all choices. Young people need to know situations here at home and around the world. Many would prefer not to be part of a miitary force but</p>

	rather in the service of a humanitarian mission, for reasons of conscience and the belief that the world today provides too much in the way of military power solutions and not enough attention to assistance in real life needs and sustainable development.
4/22/2019	Good morning, I will not be able to attend but I was hoping to watch it live screen. I don't have Face Book or Twitter. Please let me know of other options. Thanks Lorraine Jamison, [REDACTED]
4/22/2019	Good morning, I will not be able to attend but I was hoping to watch it live screen. I don't have Face Book or Twitter. Please let me know of other options. Thanks Lorraine Jamison, [REDACTED]
4/22/2019	<p>As a long serving member of the Selective Service Commission representing Montgomery County, TN and as our community has a large military active duty and retired from Ft. Campbell, I think it is imperative that the Selective Service Commission continue its mission to encourage registration of young adults for potential military service. Our new military does an excellent job in recruitment and retention and while our military has waged an over decade long conflict we have not seen the types of conflicts that may enlist the need to activate our commission. Our global world is changing and we cannot, as a country, let down our guard and our incentives to keep our military force as strong as possible. This is accomplished by strong enlistment and retention numbers but the selective service process will play a key role in the event a world wide conflict needs military personnel at a much higher level. The cost to maintain this is minimal and the training we have is of the utmost quality. Make sure that those who are pushing for the elimination of this much needed resource do not succeed. Best of luck on the panel and please know I support you and your efforts completely.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christy Batts</p>
4/22/2019	<p>As a long serving member of the Selective Service Commission representing Montgomery County, TN and as our community has a large military active duty and retired from Ft. Campbell, I think it is imperative that the Selective Service Commission continue its mission to encourage registration of young adults for potential military service. Our new military does an excellent job in recruitment and retention and while our military has waged an over decade long conflict we have not seen the types of conflicts that may enlist the need to activate our commission. Our global world is changing and we cannot, as a country, let down our guard and our incentives to keep our military force as strong as possible. This is accomplished by strong enlistment and retention numbers but the selective service process will play a key role in the event a world wide conflict needs military personnel at a much higher level. The cost to maintain this is minimal and the training we have is of the utmost quality. Make sure that those who are pushing for the elimination of this much needed resource do not succeed. Best of luck on the panel and please know I support you and your efforts completely.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christy Batts</p>
4/22/2019	I feel that that mandatory registration/service in the military should be abolished. There are many people that of good conscience can not/will not serve. The draft divided the nation years ago and will continue to do so. Rather than expanding the military, we would be better by far to increase spending on university educations and social programs. Many countries do this and stay out of other peoples business, and are far successful to the USA. Every military involvement we have we waste a lot of money, have people dislike us, and accomplish nothing. We need

	<p>to worry more about our own citizens and follow the lead of many countries that are more concerned with social programs for their citizens. I will not vote for any candidate that supports murder, killing, war over peoples rights to peace and health.</p>
<p>4/22/2019</p>	<p>Selective Service System (SSS):</p> <p>While globalization has connected the world in ways never before possible, the threat of nationalism looms large over the progress and stability international agreements have made through global trade and politics. The concept of nationalism has struck a chord within many countries and has spread throughout the world. Intentionally or not, it is threatening the strength and integrity of diplomatic relationships between neighboring countries and countries who have formed alliances half the world away. People living in Western Democracies would rarely think of "rocking the boat" and inducing instability into world economics and politics. However, other countries governed by contrasting theories would not hesitate to "going against the grain" for the sake of one nation's global positioning and power.</p> <p>War is not a popular subject, and I would say there is rarely a thing as a "popular" war. There are, however, unpopular wars. Wars that must be fought, regardless of its popularity, in order to achieve national and allied goals. We've witnessed multiple examples of these wars in recent history. And while history is 20/20, our country engaged in these wars because the leaders of the time felt the U.S.'s participation was absolutely necessary.</p> <p>The Selective Service System is an insurance policy for our country against the chaos that could ensue if any of the countries previously alluded to decide to act against the U.S., one of its allies, or one of its many trade partners. It's also an insurance policy against the U.S. entering a war that is unpopular with large segments of the population. If this were to happen, and happen without an established SSS, our voluntary force would suffer and there would be no immediate way or process to strengthen its numbers.</p> <p>The value the SSS offers is immense compared to its size and scope. It provides low powered, low cost infrastructure that can quickly be scaled to meet the emerging needs of the situation. Without the already established knowledge and understanding acquired by government professionals, its Guard and Reserve Officers, or the thousands of actively trained civilian Board Members, any effort to establish a similar process would be met with many challenges. These challenges would undoubtedly far exceed those associated with maintaining the current SSS as any new effort to replicate its work would result in immediate friction, confusion, and civilian unpopularity that the SSS has worked hard to overcome.</p> <p>Our country needs to remain vigilant by MAINTAINING critical support systems that ensure the United States of America's safety and ability to react and respond appropriately. By continuing with the existence of a SSS, we will maintain our national readiness requirements and support our all-volunteer force's men and women who stand ready to defend our country and way of life. A vote to remove the SSS is a vote to remove support from these very same warriors.</p>

4/22/2019	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am Michael J. Spillane, Esq, a proud member of SSS in Massachusetts. I view my service as a way of participating in government in its most basic function, protecting the freedom of its citizens by ensuring access to a fair process of objecting to war conscientiously. Without the SSS in operation around the nation, the basic skeletal framework of these important constitutional processes would not be available. Without order in the system, chaos would surely manifest. In the event of a draft, the political climate of the nation will predictably be chaotic. With the preservation of the SSS, chaos will be mitigated with the presence of community leaders who are able and willing to participate in a fair and impartial proceeding. I object to those that oppose the existence of the SSS. The number one job of government is to physically protect its people from enemies both foreign and domestic. SSS does this job.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Michael J. Spillane, Esq.  ██████████  Worcester, Massachusetts  ██████████</p>
4/22/2019	<p>I called and asked for pamphlets to hand out to schools to be distributed to the graduates. However the problem is my current Selective Service ID is not professional enough for me to gain entry to speak with the administrator. Therefore, I will be more than happy to all the schools speak to the principals give them the pamphlets to be handed out once I receive proper credentials. Also, I will need something that can be put on a bulletin board so that students can read it.</p> <p>Armando Agabiti  ██████████ Hamilton, NJ ██████████</p>
4/22/2019	<p>I am proud to support SSS Local broad in my area. I feel an obligation to support the Military in most any way I can. I can, if called serve on my local board, be available at your convenience to serve. My contribution, as a local board member, will to fairly help determine vareuos appeal issues according relivent applicable laws, rules, etc. and the registrants appeal.</p>
4/22/2019	<p>I am proud to support SSS Local broad in my area. I feel an obligation to support the Military in most any way I can. I can, if called serve on my local board, be available at your convenience to serve. My contribution, as a local board member, will to fairly help determine vareuos appeal issues according relivent applicable laws, rules, etc. and the registrants appeal.</p>
4/22/2019	<p>I am a funeral director and embalmer and no one wants to see me. Same way for selective service, we stand ready to serve. A good military is important and it creates and image to our enemy that we are always ready. Big thing about selective service is we have a lot of non paid volunteers. We're proud to serve our country. Martin J. Powers, Mobile, AL</p>
4/23/2019	<p>We need to continue the registration of young men as a insurance policy to call men up when needed in case we are attacked. Like auto insurance hope we never have to use it but we are protected if the unexpected happens. It is still vital for our US national security and won't show a sign of weakness to our enemies. The draft did get a bad name during Vietnam War but now we should just have the men serve for 2</p>

	<p>yrs without many deferments. We need to increase the pay of our people in the military and give them better benefits to increase participation in serving our GREAT country.</p>
<p>4/23/2019</p>	<p>May 18, 2019 will be my 76th birthday. More importantly, May 18th will be Armed Forces Day. We should all celebrate and give thanks to the men and women who have served (and/or are serving) in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.</p> <p>It seems like only yesterday that I was eighteen (18) and thinking about what was to become of me.</p> <p>You see, before my 18th birthday, my family had moved 18 times and I had attended 12 grade schools and 3 high schools. After graduating from high school, having no money and limited employment opportunities, I enlisted in the United States Air Force.</p> <p>After completing basic training, the Air Force sent me to Indiana University (to learn the Russian language). Eventually, I became fluent in English and Russian and able to communicate in Spanish, German and French.</p> <p>After Indiana University , I was sent to Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo , Texas where I became a member of the United States Air Force Security Service (often abbreviated USAFSS).</p> <p>We were told that we were culled from the cream of the Air Force’s enlisted recruits (the top ½ of 1 percent). We were also told: “Gentlemen, you are going to become spies.”</p> <p>(It should be noted that the activities of the USAFSS were declassified in 1997)</p> <p>USAFSS was a secretive and tight-knit branch of the Air Force and required top secret codeword clearance. Members of the USAFSS were not allowed to discuss their jobs with outsiders – in fact, USAFSS members could not talk amongst themselves (unless they were in a secure location). Off-base travel was severely restricted and many adopted “cover stories” to more easily conceal their real work.</p> <p>I was sent to Germany (where I functioned as a Russian Linguist). After my assignment in Germany , I was deployed to Turkey (where I again functioned as a Russian Linguist).</p> <p>We were tasked with monitoring, collecting and interpreting military voice and electronic signals of countries of interest (the Soviet Union and their satellite countries). Intelligence was often analyzed in the field and the results transmitted to the National Security Agency for further analysis and distribution to other intelligence recipients.</p> <p>Thanks to the Armed Forces of the United States of America, I have been able to live, work, study and travel in thirty (30) countries; earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree (Accounting); a Bachelor of Science Degree (Labor Economics); a Master of Science Degree (Management and Development of Human Resources) and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Business Administration).</p> <p>May 18th will be Armed Forces Day. We should all celebrate and give thanks to the men and women who have served (and/or are serving) in the Armed Forces of the United States of America . It seems like only yesterday that I was eighteen (18) and thinking about what was to become of me</p> <p>Dennis L. Sharpe, Ph.D.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Spanish Fort, AL [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

4/23/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes. The value of development of the individual who serves, preparing them for opportunities they otherwise would not have access to, as well as the organization having the staff to get the mission accomplished.</li> <li>2. Use social marketing techniques to understand the values and goals of young Americans, then to create marketing materials to attract young Americans, as well as adjusting the program itself to meet those goals. In addition, visibility of the national or public service needs to be increased so people even know that it is there.</li> <li>3. Finances. Military, not so much. I served and though the pay is small the benefits more than make up for it. National and public service though requires a person to make financial sacrifices in order to serve. And culture of 'not your job, don't go outside your paygrade, swim lane' which limits people from innovation and solutions.</li> <li>4. A person needs to be able to meet some basic needs - a living wage, student loan debt (if a person has critical skills they undoubtedly have a huge debt to repay in attaining those skills), medical, etc. Right now the US has a 10 yr repayment towards forgiveness program that showed the lack of commitment on the part of the federal government in keeping up their end of the bargain when 98% of the people who applied for forgiveness where denied. The federal government needs to make addressing the needs of the people they are trying to recruit a priority and to stick with their promises to the people.</li> <li>5. No. But my view point is that we need a much smaller military. That the US needs to readjust it's role from 'policing' the world to being a participant in UN actions - the UN should police the world. In that view point, we need half the bases the we currently have and therefore do not need such a large standing military.</li> <li>6. Yes, it should be done away with. Based on changing from having hundreds of bases in other people's countries to being a supporter of UN action.</li> <li>7. Yes, but not just for the military. I would love to see a way for young people getting valuable skills and work / life experience serving their country in civil, peaceful ventures such as AmeriCorps and Peace Corps, National Guard, and support staff in every level of government. When you are in and come out of the military the amount of support and opportunities available to you are incredible. The same or similar should be developed for those who serve in peaceful, civil ventures. Once those same opportunities are available to someone who serves their country in a capacity other than military, then you have a good platform from which to recruit the talent needed to staff civil positions.</li> </ol>
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4/23/2019	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Service above self is a key ingredient to any society. Allowing people to provide a benefit that benefits the community as a whole will help us all from fragmenting our communities and society as a whole from self over whole. If every member of society panders to what an individual wants versus the common good, there will be no society and a threat to democracy.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By communicating the tangible and intangible benefits of service. What people can see, and what they can feel to create a sense of pride and ownership in America.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Time constraints. Many players opting for your time. Age is also a barrier while the more aged are more dedicated and can train and offer other expertise, they are excluded from participating.</p> <p>How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation? Become part of the mainstream like similar nonprofit organizations. Foster advocacy by other citizens to their friends, fans and followers.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes, taking down our selective service system would be simple, but building it back up from zero impossible. Strategically, it would make sense for any of our enemies to promote the elimination of the draft and selective service as a whole.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. More exposure, more detriments to those who dont apply. In addition, it should be expanded to females.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, without it we stand alone in a modern society of self before country. George Washington believed that the best citizens in our democracy were those who could envision a greater good than self, the preservation of a federal government, but today that is shifting into the greater good of individualism. Confronted with this, there is nothing left but to require mandatory military service at a time of an attack. The division in our nation placed the need to require this even greater than in the past.</p> <p>We are too divided as a country to bring us together in a time of crisis. The time for escalation of a military unit would place us in harms way against an active opponent such as Russia, China and others who will not give but one day to react to an attack. Selective service and military teach responsibility, integrity, determination and the need to serve country above self. Without this, we are all living as individuals picking apart our federalism and our safety. Open the doors to women and older participants for the right roles in the military.</p>
4/23/2019	<p>Despite the fact that no one should be required to do something they don't want to do (a violation of basic freedom), if all males are required to register, all females should be as well.</p>

4/23/2019	<p>The "Draft" for generations marked the passage from Youth to Adulthood. After High School everyone served his time in our Military, unless the asked for deferment for College, and service afterwards. JFK said "Ask not what yourCountry can do for you but rather what can I do for my Country." Military service did a great service for Americans that served!</p> <p>And those that serve do themselves great honor and honor our Country and all Americans by Serving, to protect and defend our Nation! What greater honor is there than being called to serve to protect and defend and stepping forward and assuming that great responsibility.</p> <p>We have a great many who are saddled with college loan debt years after achieving their degrees.</p> <p>The Draft, service to our Nation would be perhaps be a way for repayment in many instances. The Military needs a lot of Professionals and degreed Talent in many areas.</p> <p>Those for who College is not in the cards, would get Training in a variety of fields plus money for College after Service or while in Reserves and National Guards.</p> <p>And.. our youth of today are soft, aimless and looking but not finding direction or setting goals or achieving them. Military Service for them would change their lives.</p> <p>Our Military needs Personnel and the Best and Brightest most often seek wealth and Protecting and Defending our Nation comes down the line.</p> <p>The Draft would have a terrific positive effect on our Society, and our Military Preparedness and Reserve of Trained Troops would prevent the situation we found ourselves in before WWII.</p> <p>History says we will face another Great Conflict again. We must be prepared.</p> <p>Selective Service, even if not active, at this time, must always be ready and staffed all the way down to local Boards. For our nation cannot afford a delay of weeks of motnhs to put back in place the Selective Service System when we face the onlought of an adverssary, with the numbers of Troops and equipment and high speed warefare we will face in the future.</p> <p>We must maintain he Selective Service System and wisdom and reason dictates the Draft be reinstated before it is urgently needed, which is too late.</p> <p>Louis D Owens Chair Board 32 Tn</p>
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4/23/2019	<p>A White Paper of SOS America (Service over Self)</p> <p>John L. Borling (Major General USAF – ret)</p> <p>Unlike former times, there is no draft or conscription law currently enacted yet registration at age 18 via the selective service (SS) system/process remains an individual male requirement. Constitutionality of this program has been affirmed on multiple occasions. Opposition to the program is founded, inter alia, on cost, no national need, concern that it is a precursor to conscription, and general rejection of the concept including more constitutional challenges and the need also to register women. The quantification of the opposition voices versus those in support remains in the realms of ‘estimation’.</p> <p>Having a process in place to access and process large numbers of fit males to ward off a military threat occasions the ‘insurance policy’ argument in favor of SS. Differing perceptions/realities of the likelihood of such a threat provide another area of contention. SOS America maintains that the causal predicate for SS may well be a military threat or action but the future is a great unknown. Domestic or international calamities could create circumstances where a partial or greater mobilization was needed (and quickly). Consider pandemics, Population Migration, All Volunteer Force (AVF) Personnel costs/availability, Economic Dislocations, Civil Discord, Natural or man-made disasters, etc. It seems short sighted to not have the SS system/process in place and fully functional.</p> <p>Returning to the causal predicate, it must be seen as ‘just’ or worthy if it is to enjoy public support. This argument needs to be made again and again—the ‘just’ or necessary cause and an evident readiness to be capable of worthy and timely response, i.e. the SS.</p> <p>The failure to insure a fully functioning/enforced SS system across the 50 states is most worrisome. Registration numbers lag and the program’s ‘teeth’ are not engaged. There is ennui and acceptance when vitality is required. Unless the SS program is fully functional, it becomes, to too many, a system to flaunt. This is harmful to national cohesiveness. To cope with future risk, indeed present needs, America depends on ‘skin in the game’ however modestly the SS process provides same. It is a necessary step in national endurance.</p> <p>The subject of registering women deserves dispassionate disposition. Women have the right, and should have the opportunity, to try and achieve any life outcome they seek. Gender aside, if individual capabilities are not sufficient to the aspired task, then failure results for both males and females. There are no individual capabilities that limit women from SS registration. It becomes a matter of national aspiration based on national interests and need. By including women there are legitimate cost and administrative concerns that obtain but can be reckoned in any decision. SOS America offers the same solution SS registration (see next input)</p>
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4/23/2019	<p>Continuation of SOS White Paper. (see previous input)</p> <p>That 'solution' follows.</p> <p>Specifically, to augment the all volunteer force (AVF), and absent exemption, men 18-25, able to physically and mentally take care of themselves, would owe a year serving in small non-combatant military units (@ 100). Mixing geography, ages and backgrounds the small units of the US Military Service Corps (USMSC) would respond, ON DEMAND, to AVF levies (active duty, guard and reserve) as well as those of other federal and state agencies. Women 18-25, unless exempted, are encouraged to volunteer and are welcome in the USMSC. Similarly, SOS America (Service over Self) supports the 'volunteer option' for women to register under the SS program using the same criteria as for men. Our sampling results indicate very limited support for mandatory service for women but do favor the 'volunteer' opportunity for those so inclined. SOS America favors additional national polling (among all age groups) on these matters to include the mandatory registration of men issue and a mandatory or voluntary registration of women. Similarly, it would be wise to poll the value of the current AVF structure plus the need for the proposed SOS America Program.</p> <p>Finally, If American is to endure and prosper, we need to ask for and expect citizen support of our military. A common expectation of service is central to the shared values and experiences that hold a diverse nation together and propel it forward through the generations. We fail those generations and we fail the nation if we do not equate duty with liberty.</p> <p>For additional detail, please see <a href="http://www.SOSAmerica.org">www.SOSAmerica.org</a>.</p>
4/23/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invaluable experience in life. Allows enlistees to travel, obtain a marketable skill and serve their country.</li> <li>2. You enlist young American's to serve by ending the never-ending wars we are engaged in. Few wish to fight for someone or something they neither understand nor potentially die for.</li> <li>3. Other than the Guard, there is no way to serve part-time.</li> <li>4. Pay better in those fields.</li> <li>5. Yes, but given today's culture, I doubt many would adhere to the requirement.</li> <li>6. Yes, other than physical limitation, there should be no deferments.</li> <li>7. Yes, but only in times of war upon our country, not foreign excursions.</li> </ol> <p>You are planning to speak at Gualladet University for the Deaf. Perhaps a better venue is warranted.</p>

4/23/2019	<p>Does service have inherent value? Yes, not only to our country but to those who serve as well. Our soldiers generally have a much higher respect for our country than the average citizen, and we desperately need more patriotism and nationalism today. Our country would greatly benefit from increased patriotism and nationalism.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes. It is an insurance policy that we should not forego.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes. Look at Israel. Both men and women are required to serve, and it works well for them.</p> <p>Respectfully, Mindy Vance Bouman Region 1, Area Off: 011, Board 173, Chair</p>
4/23/2019	<p>I believe the requirement for Selective Service registration should be extended to women. Women have shown that they are highly capable to performing in combat situations. In this day and age, there is no reason to exempt them.</p> <p>Young people today are taught in the schools that they have to go to college to be successful. I'm not arguing that a college education isn't a boon to one's ability to be successful, but the G.I. Bill is a wonderful way to put a person on the road to a college degree. I have a degree in journalism and political science that I earned after serving eight years in the Navy, including two deployments to Vietnam aboard a Destroyer. Nearly all my friends in college were Vietnam veterans and they have been very successful in life. I attribute that to the values we acquired in the service and carried over to civilian life. In college, I served as chairman of the Youth Advisory Council to the state director of Selective Service. I also represented Nebraska at a conference of the western state's councils that was held at President Nixon's western White House in San Clemente.</p> <p>High school students today are not well informed about the benefits of serving. They certainly aren't hearing about them from high school guidance counselors. But they should be.</p> <p>As far as registration itself, I can't tell you how many U.S. Postal facilities I have been in that were not displaying the information about registration requirements. USPS needs to be held accountable for that.</p> <p>I serve on a Selective Service Regional Appeal Board. At age 78, I know I was brought up to respect our military and wanted to serve. The opportunity to travel, meet new challenges, and make new friends was my main incentive.</p> <p>It is my fondest dream that we never again have need of a military draft. But if we do, we need to be prepared. That draft should include</p>

women and no college deferments.

Dennis Hetherington  
Las Vegas, NV

4/23/2019	<p>Try to find the number.</p> <p>Try to find the total number of dead American Soldiers from all of our Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq during the past 17 years. I come up with approximately 7,000.</p> <p>For these 7,000 deceased souls, I feel it is our duty to continue our Selective Service System.</p> <p>We should reinstate the draft.</p> <p>We can expand upon our Operation Inherent Resolve to include our fight to keep clean air and clean water in the Tigris and the Euphrates, as well as ON this planet. We can stop paving roads in Afghanistan for a proudly fierce culture which in the past 200 years never sought to build a railway system.</p> <p>Service would be a part of everyday life for all young people who for two years after High School would be required to serve. Whether a young man or woman served through the Armed Forces or through a New Green deal program, each person would be required to know the costs, both in economic terms and by measuring a Soldier's Heart. A soldier counts the dead. A good soldier counts the dead on both sides.</p> <p>With a DRAFT, there would be no sanctimonious slogan of a stranger telling someone who served in the military, "Thank you for your service." Service would be required by all and all would serve.</p> <p>Human beings are not throw away items. The fire pits that burn constantly around the clock in Camp Taji are snuffing the life out of U.S. service personnel and Iraqis. I know because a friend of mine, a linguist who was based in Camp Taji, is now suffering here at home with pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Try to find the number of dead. If all serve we will learn, and remember, the number. The number will add up to people, people of all kinds. All Americans will have a vested interest in our past invasions in Afghanistan and Iraq.</p> <p>Like Colonel Smedley Butler, we know that WAR is a RACKET. But our new war to win against climate change is the racket that must ultimately prevail.</p> <p>Let each of our youth enter the 21st century draft.</p> <p>Our Selective Service System is set up and READY TO GO! TWO YEARS of service in a branch of the Armed Forces. Or, two years in a program such as The New Green Deal, to ensure we will be able to LIVE on this Earth for many years to come.</p>
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Respectfully submitted, Julie Otto, Local Board Member, Region 1, New Jersey, Board Number: 059

4/24/2019

3. Barriers to participation in military, national or public service

As a veteran of the Marine Corps, I firmly believe the path to a better military and a safer country is to get discrimination out of our armed forces. There's not a problem with people not wanting to serve their country - there's a problem with the system convincing them not to.

I served in the Marine Corps for five years as a woman, and by far the biggest obstacle I faced was sexism. Most men fail to comprehend even a tenth of what women face when they serve. I was sexually harassed, sexually assaulted, stalked, hit on by superiors, belittled, called names, and seen as weak and incompetent by my fellow male Marines. It is very difficult to focus on a job when your attacker is in the same platoon as you. It is very difficult to feel safe in your living space when your squad leader is banging on your barracks door to counsel you for not going on a date with him. It is very difficult to prove you're as strong or as fast as the men you serve with when they actively exclude you from the physically tough parts of service, and then complain that you don't do your fair share.

After I finished my first and only enlistment, I realized that I was transgender. I now live my life as a man and am seen as one by the people around me. My situation is so different now - where men looked down on me before because they saw a woman, they now respect me and believe in my competency. Only my outside has changed, but that is enough to make me worthy. It is frustrating to think how much easier my service would be now that I've transitioned. There would be no more male service members snatching heavy items out of my hands, or talking about what I look like naked. I could feel comfortable and safe in the presence of other male service members without looking over my shoulder or wondering if my drink is spiked. I might even earn a promotion without someone accusing me of trading sexual favors for it.

And yet, because I'm transgender, I can't serve anymore. I gave five years of honorable service to the Marine Corps. Now, because I need to take a shot every week, I can't offer any more? In my years of transition I've spent a total of two weeks after a surgery unable to do desk work, and a total of three months unable to do physical training. Nothing else in that time would have affected military service. My fellow Marines spent more time on light duty for getting LASIK than I did for gender-affirming surgery.

The US government needs to stop believing it has a problem with Americans who don't want to serve, and start looking at the biases it uses to keep people from offering service. Keeping women out of combat positions and holding them to different physical standards is a way to other them and justify sexism, which drives women away from the military. Barring trans people from serving alienates a group that wants to serve, but per regulation cannot. There's no reason for it.

4/24/2019	<p>In regards to questions 2, 5, and 7:</p> <p>As with everything else in this world, it all starts at home. We need to start by promoting policies that strengthen the family. A strong family translates to a strong community to a strong country. When the country is strong more young men will willingly serve out of civic duty. We don't get there by coercing them with promises of education and glory. And we certainly don't get there by compelling them to register for a draft. The draft is over reach. We need to trust our citizens to see the value of this great country and willingly volunteer their efforts. We also need to stop involving ourselves in world affairs we don't belong in. America first.</p> <p>As for women being forced to register for the draft. I am appalled by the idea. How do we send our mothers, daughters, and wives into war? As a whole women are not as strong as men. Of course their are outliers but we would be foolish to assume the outliers were the standard. And how do we strengthen the family when we potentially send the loving hands of the home off to a war? I speak as a woman. A 22 year old woman who is a farmer and a housewife. My husband is a veteran, as are my uncles. My father was a marine but was medically discharged. We are patriots and love our fellow countryfolk. But as a 22 year old I feel this policy will affect me and my family. Should I be blessed enough to have a daughter I refuse to potentially send her to a war. This is not how you inspire support for the military. Abolish the draft to protect our mothers.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I want to be on the record as saying that I, as a Quaker, am very much opposed to anyone, no matter their gender, being forced to join the military, where one of the teachings is how to kill. Those who choose to follow their conscience should always have the opportunity to be considered as a conscientious objector to war and militarism.</p> <p>Sheela Repoley, North Carolina</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I want to be on the record as saying that I, as a Quaker, am very much opposed to anyone, no matter their gender, being forced to join the military, where one of the teachings is how to kill. Those who choose to follow their conscience should always have the opportunity to be considered as a conscientious objector to war and militarism.</p> <p>Sheela Repoley, North Carolina</p>
4/24/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Service has inherent value. Directly by helping those who are served. Indirectly by enabling a person to grow trough service.</li> <li>2. Better publication of opportunities. Involvement in the schools. Leverage and support existing organizations.</li> <li>3. Lack of knowledge. Perceived opportunity lost cost.</li> <li>4. Raise awareness of legally constituted State Defense Forces.</li> <li>5. The draft contingency is still a necessary component of U.S. national security.</li> <li>6. I don't think so.</li> <li>7. A "soft" mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary and valuable. Feasible is another issue.</li> </ol>
4/24/2019	<p>I feel that in today's modern society ALL American citizens over eighteen should be required to register for the draft. This is fair, substantially increases the pool and just makes common sense.</p>

4/24/2019	I believe that the selective service system and registration is still an important part of our countries national defense. I also believe that females should also be required to register for selective service as well as males since we now live in a gender neutral society. I sincerely hope that we never have to re-instate the draft but for the small costs that are involved it provides a significant benefit.
4/24/2019	The service can be used as a valuable resource in times of large natural disasters such as Katrina and the Houston hurricanes. It can be a way to engage many of us retired persons capable of rendering some assistance in such emergencies and may be a way to become more visible for short periods within FEMA. Right now we are a reserve "last resort" program and with the number of retirees from the "boomer generation" it may be possible to use us as "volunteers" in some administrative capacity to relieve government employees so they can be better utilized.
4/24/2019	The service can be used as a valuable resource in times of large natural disasters such as Katrina and the Houston hurricanes. It can be a way to engage many of us retired persons capable of rendering some assistance in such emergencies and may be a way to become more visible for short periods within FEMA. Right now we are a reserve "last resort" program and with the number of retirees from the "boomer generation" it may be possible to use us as "volunteers" in some administrative capacity to relieve government employees so they can be better utilized.
4/24/2019	There is diminished value and commitment to service when the government is capriciously led by an angry and hateful man with seemingly no commitment to the health and values of our country. How can we, in good faith, advocate for our fellow citizens to commit to serving a government predisposed to exploiting them or to use them in exploiting others?
4/24/2019	The Selective Service System works. It has always worked and has preserved national security and the American Way of life. I believe as we endeavor to articulate the value of serving our country and that every American can make a positive contribution to our standing in the world, awareness will be heightened. This will advance the cause of the Selective Service System as well as our country as a whole when regular citizens step up to do what they are able to do.
4/24/2019	I want to provide my support to the Selective Service System. I feel it is very important that our young men and women understand the need to be ready in the event our national security is threatened. Donald Newsom
4/24/2019	The volunteer army system, while it does work and provides better soldiers, is highly discriminatory towards people of lower economic status. This has a tendency to insure that politicians who are voting for war actually have no skin in the game- that their own children are exempt from needing to serve, due to having additional options for their life.  Having a draft available in times of crisis, or possibly even bringing it back, would reduce the chances of American lives being expended in conflicts that are not in the general interest, but only catering to the interests of select groups.  Ted Seeber, Oregon

4/24/2019	<p>Today is the 45th anniversary of the day I raised my right hand for the first time. I would do it many more times over the next twenty two years. I was in the last group of men that were in the Vietnam Era draft but I volunteered at 17. The Vietnam war was still active and I felt compelled to serve. My Grandfather served in WW1 and Dad served in WW2. All volunteers. We served to protect America from all enemies foreign and domestic. The lessons of World War 1 are stark reminders about the need for selective service and preparedness. Before the war began, resistance to preparedness led the country to not being ready for the challenges it faced. Not only were eligible men not identified, but the overall lack of planning led to large wait times that probably lengthened the war. Had American boys been trained and ready to go in 1917, hundreds of thousands of lives would not have needlessly been spent in the war that had already been raging. Our troops were not drafted until May of 1917 and then they entered the training pipeline. There were not enough camps for the men, ships to send them over, and resources to house them once they were there. Registration is a critical first step that makes the next steps possible. It is foolish to think that there will never be another conflict. Having an information data base that is accurate about the potential forces that could be mustered is one of the most critical step to national preparedness. In any future conflict, the timeline will be greatly shortened. Technology has shrunk the world in ways that we could never have imagined. Getting the men and women prepared and into the line of battle quickly will be more important in the future than at any time in our nation's past. If that infrastructure were attacked with electronic warfare or God forbid an EMP scenario, trying to make up for the gap in information would be a critical challenge. A layered and protected system of registration should be a national priority and always kept up to date. The main change I would hope to see would be the inclusion of females as a needed part of the equation. Ships, submarines, planes and even combat units have now been integrated. The skills and knowledge that women can bring to the battle are very important to the national defense. They already share a significant part of the defensive posture and must be included in a modernized registration process. Technology has become the great equalizer in the past forty years and it is time for a Selective Service System that recognizes the changing climate. In the end, our country was created by people who recognized our special place among nations. America is a country that symbolizes freedom all around the world. No other country has the ability to stand up when others have been pushed down. It is the contribution of the American fighting men and women that ensures this both now and in the future. The selective service system is an integral part of that freedom.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>Today is the 45th anniversary of the day I raised my right hand for the first time. I would do it many more times over the next twenty two years. I was in the last group of men that were in the Vietnam Era draft but I volunteered at 17. The Vietnam war was still active and I felt compelled to serve. My Grandfather served in WW1 and Dad served in WW2. All volunteers. We served to protect America from all enemies foreign and domestic. The lessons of World War 1 are stark reminders about the need for selective service and preparedness. Before the war began, resistance to preparedness led the country to not being ready for the challenges it faced. Not only were eligible men not identified, but the overall lack of planning led to large wait times that probably lengthened the war. Had American boys been trained and ready to go in 1917, hundreds of thousands of lives would not have needlessly been spent in the war that had already been raging. Our troops were not drafted until May of 1917 and then they entered the training pipeline. There were not enough camps for the men, ships to send them over, and resources to house them once they were there. Registration is a critical first step that makes the next steps possible. It is foolish to think that there will never be another conflict. Having an information data base that is accurate about the potential forces that could be mustered is one of the most critical step to national preparedness. In any future conflict, the timeline will be greatly shortened. Technology has shrunk the world in ways that we could never have imagined. Getting the men and women prepared and into the line of battle quickly will be more</p>

	<p>important in the future than at any time in our nation's past. If that infrastructure were attacked with electronic warfare or God forbid an EMP scenario, trying to make up for the gap in information would be a critical challenge. A layered and protected system of registration should be a national priority and always kept up to date. The main change I would hope to see would be the inclusion of females as a needed part of the equation. Ships, submarines, planes and even combat units have now been integrated. The skills and knowledge that women can bring to the battle are very important to the national defense. They already share a significant part of the defensive posture and must be included in a modernized registration process. Technology has become the great equalizer in the past forty years and it is time for a Selective Service System that recognizes the changing climate. In the end, our country was created by people who recognized our special place among nations. America is a country that symbolizes freedom all around the world. No other country has the ability to stand up when others have been pushed down. It is the contribution of the American fighting men and women that ensures this both now and in the future. The selective service system is an integral part of that freedom.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>From : Cecily Ouimet SSS Member</p> <p>So sorry I cannot attend this very important meeting, I am having Thyroid surgery .  I will try watching the testimony via livestream, I wish Donald M.Benton Director have great success with the testimony, and with the panel discussing the future of Selective Service. I understand the critical value of the Selective Service System in every way.  Thank you for a find job Mr.Benton ,ahead of time as representative for all the SSS Members..</p> <p>Sincerely ,</p> <p>Cecily Ouimet</p>

4/24/2019	<p>The Selective Service system is a valuable support network to the security of the USA's citizens and residents. National Security is not delivered by intermittent efforts or an 11th hour scramble for defensive forces. National security requires knowing where and who your defensive and protective human forces currently active and those in a 'pool' of available additional or successor human forces are located. The Selective Service System is this defensive human pool.</p> <p>Defensive technology has not replaced the need for humans in the national defense equation.</p> <p>Keep the Selective Service System active.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I remember when I was 18-years old and had to sign up for the draft during Vietnam, a lot of younger people will never know those days, but it made me a better person to serve our country that is why I feel getting rid of our selective service system, in fact I think they should bring up the draft again, stopping our selective system would only cause a lot of other problems in a case of a world war.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>As a new member of the SS System board, I have little to share except for my age and experience from my past years. Being registered at the age of 18 and at the height of the Vietnam crisis I realized what a difference the draft meant to the security of our nation's borders. True we did not fight on our soils but we did fight to maintain peace in parts of the world that did not accept freedom as a choice of life. My brother served in Vietnam and was a decorated Marine. Wounded badly he helped protect us at home. The SS System is the most important part of our nation's defense against foreign aggressors is our military and the use of the SS System is of the utmost importance our freedom. I am proud to be a part of that system,</p> <p>David Hickman</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I have been appointed to the local selective service board in Pennsylvania and having served in Vietnam as a combat veteran, I find it more needed today given the world we live in and the potential of being attacked by some rogue nation. We all hope that never happens but the United States must be prepared to initiate the draft given the world climate and the conditions brewing for dictators like we had in the past wanting to expand their borders or taking economic resources to make them a world power. We can never be too careful and we must be in a ready mode if this should happen. I am honored to serve in this capacity should we institute the draft if it is necessary for the survival of our Country. If we become too complacent, we open up ourselves to these type of situations that once initiated will need to start drafting to increase our Military presence in the World today. Weakness breeds invasion but strength keeps it at bay. My name is Jeffrey G. Butch from Lancaster, Pa</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I feel that the Selective Service system as it is today is a necessary component of our national security needs. By requiring all young Americans to register for the draft they are reminded that this country requires some type of military force at all times to protect it from those who may want to harm us. It reminds them that they are essential to our safety and, therefore, may enter military service before a draft is necessary.</p> <p>Also, with the Selective Service Boards standing ready to serve, any harmful act within our borders or elsewhere against our interests can be addressed within days rather than months or years. What is happening around the world will touch us personally in the future. It has in the past. We should not hide from this fact or think that it cannot happen to us again.</p>

	<p>We live in an increasingly unstable world for many reasons. Economical, social, environmental and philosophical motivations and changes dictate to us that this is not the time to be reducing our effectiveness.</p>
<p>4/24/2019</p>	<p>One area that needs to be reconciled.....the responsibility of being fit for Military service.</p> <p>In the 1960's the Draft was not popular as there was an unpopular conflict raging on in Vietnam. Some males hurried to get a family started , or even ran off to Canada, in order not to be called upon to serve. Today, under similar circumstances, I suspect males would simply smoke a marijuana product, thus failing the physical. Having a controlled substance in the system would render a male in not being an attractive candidate. With Marijuana consumption being legal in more and more states, it becomes an issue when considering drafting of males into military service. If there are no sanctions or costs to the avoidance of such an initiative.....that alone, would render conscription as moot. As, those who would be willing to serve would do so, if required. This, juxtaposed to those not willing to serve would just use marijuana as a dodge to avoid military service.</p> <p>This issues needs to be well thought and resolved, as it is a logical issues to compromise draft issues. Thank you. Loren Stevens</p>
<p>4/24/2019</p>	<p>I am not a professional writer by any means but I do have an idea how the U.S. could increase the desire for more young Americans to serve. The idea is in the marketing of the lifestyle of regular active duty members and reservists. To show HOW you 'can be the best you can be' using the social media platforms that most young Americans frequent. Parts of the lifestyle of a military member is financial stability, educational benefits, technical training, and travel, etc. Also, learning teamwork and gaining respect and responsibility. To market all of these things on social media platforms with a fresh perspective that is appealing to teenagers and twenty-somethings I believe would increase their desire to serve. The recent commercials where the teenager fantasizes about the military and then the parents appear and are concerned about them is not at all the best way to reach the age group. Signing-up should be the first real decision they made for themselves and they are proud of it. I hope that I have helped by sharing my ideas. Thank you.</p>

4/24/2019	<p>I support the Selective Service concept and operation. While it is hard for people to see its need during times of high personal enrollment in the Military, we need to be cognizant of the turmoil around the world. Both against our Allies and the potential of a major attack on the US or the need for stepped-up US Support of our Allies.</p> <p>The best way to deal with any potential issue is Preparation. If we do away with the Selective Service, and the worst happens, it may take too long to spin up to add troops when and where needed.</p> <p>I feel this should be obvious to anyone. The increased selective attacks that we call "terrorism" can easily escalate.</p> <p>Be Prepared. Randy Sablich Murphy, Texas</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I believe the Selective Service System is an important part of our National Defense for the following reasons; It is a insurance policy so the Armed Forces of the United States, may increase our military force, in a short time should the need arise. It gives our Volunteer Armed Forces, confidence that, We have their backs and will raise additional forces as necessary. By having the ability to reinstate the draft, and increase our force, relatively quickly, it gives our enemies pause before acting on aggression!</p> <p>Thank you, Robert Moberly Selective Service System Volunteer Lincoln, NE</p>
4/24/2019	<p>As a local board member [REDACTED], I wish to express my thoughts about the mission of the U.S. Selective Service System. I believe SSS is worthwhile because it displays a form of readiness to our U.S. citizens. The military is still an essential part of our society and we cannot toss it aside. An all volunteer force is a testimonial that our citizens respect the Service, offering pride and adventure and a lifelong experience to those who volunteer. It may also act as a deterrent to our adversaries. At this point, mandatory service is not required but may be if the SSS is eliminated.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>The common sense answer to the Selective Service issue is that the United States should be ready for any &amp; all circumstance that may well arise in the future. A severe circumstance that needs support to avoid catastrophe has to be available -- from volcano eruption as Yellowstone National Park, or military attack by a surprise coalition of enemy forces by any means. The United States presently has too much emphasis on monetary means and no awareness to the importance of the solidarity of unity of the country that we are all members of the same human race == together we stand strong and divided the country will fall and fail. There has been no attention to this togetherness of our nation and therefore it is a severe weakness to our survival for a long range future. The Selective Service would be a most important entity to unify our U.S.A. in a time of need with a coalition of experience and education.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>My understanding of the draft system is that all males must register for the draft if they want to receive financial aid for college. I think we should include females also. I know we have a volunteer system in place and there are more than enough young people to serve in our</p>

	military, I just think it is fair to require both sexes to register. As a retired member of 20 plus years on a draft board I think it would be fair to ask all citizens to register.
4/24/2019	I really feel the military draft or draft contingency is still a necessary component of U.S. national security?
4/24/2019	It is important to realize firstly, that the Selective Service System is an important part of the US D.O.D., it ensures American Citizens the Right to oppose draft orders and bring their reasons and concerns in front of a Committee to be heard and decided. It is detrimental to our Country, Constitution, Way of Life, And Our Future that the brave and self-less men and women in the military continue to be Mighty and Many. Be thankful, that the Commander in Chief has not implemented a mandatory service into the Armed Forces as in some other countries. Be thankful, that our military continues to be made up of the hearts and bravery of volunteers. Continue to be Honorable not only towards our Fallen Heroes and Brothers in Arms, but to your Country, Freedoms, Rights, and Life.
4/24/2019	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>As an American I appreciate and understand why our Armed Forces are necessary and how blessed and lucky we have been to have Americans volunteer to continue the tradition and necessity of having a military in place to protect our citizens, visitors, to aid other countries and to help the world protected from evil of all kinds. Enlisting in the military is something I wish I had considered when I was young enough, by the time I went to join the Reserves I was turned down due to age.</p> <p>The youth in our country could use the discipline, earn the respect of all who live here and make their lives better for sharing in the experience and training of the Armed Forces. We who live here and are not part of the Military rely on the fact that we have a Military should we need one. A force to protect and serve our country in all conditions. To do away with the possibility that Armed Forces Draft may never be necessary is to ignore the evil and trouble in the world today. Please keep our Selective Service, it is vital to America.</p> <p>Gail Hokenstad</p>
4/24/2019	Not only do we need the sss to be able to know who is eligible and where to find people quickly in time of war. We also need to require eligible people to report for training in time of peace so they are ready when war breaks out. You can not stop a ship on a dime and you can train a soldier in 24 hours !!!!! Training will also give these people some idea of what they need to do to stay in physical shape to go into battle and what they need to know in order to use modern technical weapon systems. You can not learn those skills over night!!! Thank you John L Frehn P.E.
4/24/2019	It is essential to realize firstly, that the Selective Service System serves a very important cause, it ensures American Citizens the Right to oppose draft orders and bring their reasons and concerns in front of the Board Committee to be Heard and decided. It is detrimental to our Country, Constitution, Way of Life, And Our Future that the brave and self-less men and women in the military continue to be Mighty and Many. Be thankful, that the Commander in Chief has not implemented a mandatory time of service into the Armed Forces as it is in other countries. Be thankful, that our military continues to be made up of the Hearts and Bravery of Volunteers. Continue to be Honorable, not only towards our Fallen Heroes, and Brothers in Arms, but to Your Country, Freedoms, Rights, and Life.

4/24/2019	The Selective system needs to exist. Both males and females should be required to register as a way of certifying that we are a united country and worthy of preservation. Those citizens deemed not able to receive military training could be trained in other ways to contribute to the unity of this great nation.,
4/24/2019	<p>I wish to voice my support the Selective Service System and the possibility of the draft, if ever necessary. As a veteran with 34 years service, I have served under both models, the All Volunteer Force and the draft. The All Volunteer Force is doing a great job in protecting our country. But, if it were ever necessary to fight a war in two theaters at the same time as we did in World War II, the All Volunteer Force would need more support than could be provided by the National Guard and the Reserves. Thus, the justification for the Selective Service System and conscription. The agency is a very inexpensive insurance policy in the event a national mobilization is required. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.</p> <p>Claude Hempel COL USA(Ret)</p>
4/24/2019	<p>I am in support of the Selective Service Program. I believe in it so much that I have been a voluntary Board Member for the past ten (10) years. None of us knows what tomorrow brings in the world of conflict, and the Selective Service Board not only addresses the military aspect, it also addresses the domestic threats of public health. It is just as likely a draft of medical personal will occur if for say a dirty bomb were to go off in a US City.</p> <p>The Selective Service has been the way to ensure our county has the ability to protect ourselves, and has done it at a very low cost due to all Board Members across the country are not paid, we are volunteers.</p> <p>Be wise and don't loose a good program, as the alternative is ignorance and no safeguards! It takes years to remain prepared.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>William Foster Formally: [REDACTED] Dallas, TX [REDACTED] Now, pending new Board Assignment Approval: [REDACTED] Sequim, WA [REDACTED]</p>

4/24/2019	<p>Dear Sir:</p> <p>I am honored to be a Selective Service Board Member. I joined the Army at 17 and knew what an honor it was to serve. Too many take for granted and would never serve. That's why we need the Selective Service. If the need arises ALL must share a n defending our country.</p> <p>Don Grabowski</p>
4/24/2019	<p>Dear Sir:</p> <p>I am honored to be a Selective Service Board Member. I joined the Army at 17 and knew what an honor it was to serve. Too many take for granted and would never serve. That's why we need the Selective Service. If the need arises ALL must share a n defending our country.</p> <p>Don Grabowski</p>
4/24/2019	<p>Military service provides individuals with structure, purpose and discipline. Much of this is lacking in society today. The military establishment is only as effective as its leadership. The draft is still a much needed component of the military. Every citizen must understand that the defense of the country is paramount. There are continued threats from around the world and while military tactics and weaponry continue to change, “boots on the ground” is what ultimately gets the mission completed. We are seeing that currently.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>U. S. Selective Service System Speakers Bureau. My name is Treatha Foster and I am a volunteer for the Speakers Bureau. I have served as a volunteer Board Member for 15 years.</p> <p>The Speakers Bureau is focused on informing the community leaders about the importance of Registration with the Selective Service. All the organizations that I have contacted to speak at their meeting has been welcoming and thankful( Boys and Girls Club, The Ministerial League, Public School including the ROTC). I am proud and honor to inform the young men in my community about the importance of the Selective Service Registration to fulfill their civic duty and avoid the adverse consequences associated with failing to register. They welcome this information.</p> <p>Treatha Brown-Foster Selective Service System Board Member</p>
4/24/2019	<p>Seriously concerned about future recruitment when we cannot even get Democrat Congressmen and women to respect our flag or sovereignty. Colleges promote hatred toward our authority and little to no respect. Youth on drugs, amoral people, and we are in serious trouble getting non-citizens to fight for our nation. I am very worried about our program. Political infighting and drafting females? I am against drafting women, but encourage volunteers..Randall Chapman West Virginia</p>
4/24/2019	<p>Seriously concerned about future recruitment when we cannot even get Democrat Congressmen and women to respect our flag or sovereignty. Colleges promote hatred toward our authority and little to no respect. Youth on drugs, amoral people, and we are in serious trouble getting non-citizens to fight for our nation. I am very worried about our program. Political infighting and drafting females? I am against drafting women, but encourage volunteers..Randall Chapman West Virginia</p>

4/24/2019	We need the sss to be ready right now ,to be able to contact eligible people quickly if war breaks out, more than ever befor, when you have Russia, China, Iran and Korea preparing for war with us. We need to require right now that people attend classes to be pre trained before they are drafted into the army, so they have the skills they will need during war time. John L. Frehn P.E.
4/24/2019	I am in full support of the US Selective Service Commission. I believe the Selective Service Commission has intrinsic value to the Armed Forces and Homeland Security in the case of a national emergency including but not limited to War, natural disasters and as a plan B.
4/24/2019	<p>From Ina K. Bendis MD JD PhD MS; former Conscientious Objector wife whose grandson graduates from Navy Boot Camp this Friday; served on local School Board 2006-2014 (elected official); former USMEPCOM &amp; VA C&amp;P examining MD; SSS Appeals Board Member.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, because: In the event Congress reinstutes the draft we need a mechanism in place (i.e., Draft Boards [DB], Appeals Boards [AB], &amp; their administrative infrastructure) to ensure that Americans who request exemption from military service get accurately categorized as "exempt" vs "non-exempt"; this in turn requires formulating policies &amp; procedures, attracting qualified volunteers for DB/AB positions, vetting them, training them, etc. We have invested substantial fiscal, administrative &amp; volunteer resources into constructing our current system; dismantling it &amp; then potentially needing to recreate it in future would be wasteful &amp; foolhardy.</li> <li>2. Too complex to address here &amp; irrelevant to Q of whether to retain the SSS.</li> <li>3. See 2. above.</li> <li>4. K-12 public education (improve STEM &amp; educate RE benefits of serving our Country &amp; the plethora of ways to do so); otherwise, see 2. above.</li> <li>5. Yes, for many reasons: [a] The continual political, economic &amp; military instability our world faces (i.e., so many countries have nuclear weapons &amp; satellites; the speed of technological advancement needed to make war keeps increasing and so such technology becomes increasingly accessible to dangerous potential foes each passing year); also, biennial changes in our decision-makers (i.e., who gets elected to Presidency any 4th year or to Congress every other year) creates relative instability in our projected needs for personnel (i.e., we may "suddenly" need huge numbers of additional personnel as a consequence of an election); [b] the variable degree to which each successive President &amp; Congress deems it necessary to protect US interests worldwide by increasing military personnel means that "suddenly" (in the sense of "within a year or even months after some biennial congressional election or a presidential election) we may need huge numbers of additional personnel whose number can be filled *only* through a draft.</li> <li>6. Yes (but again, this question is relevant only to the extent that we retain the SSS); e.g., given the vastly changed roles of women in our society (socially, economically, professionally, etc.) &amp; decades of Supreme Court decisions emphasizing importance of gender-equality under our Constitution (whose right to protection our military's ultimate purpose is to protect), our established-in-another-era policy of exempting all women from a military draft makes no sense &amp; contradicts the Constitution as interpreted by SCOTUS.</li> <li>7. RE "necessary": see 5. above; RE "valuable": see 5. above (plus other considerations related to equal opportunity, etc.); RE: "feasible": obviously, given that we did it successfully before (to me, with all due respect, this is a Silly Question).</li> </ol>
4/24/2019	We need a strong military. Everyone should be required to spend at least 2 years in the military right out of high school.

4/24/2019	As a Board Member, I just wanted to voice my support of the SSS. This entity is one of, what seems to be few, remaining systems in place that reminds us as US citizens of our civic responsibility to protect and serve our country. This agency is such an important part of our nation's defense and my hope is that it remains intact. Thank you.
4/24/2019	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>I say, absolutely. With many enemies of America, from around the world. One can only imagine, if someone made an actual attempt at the homeland.</p> <p>If for no other reason? It is insurance, or something that is not looked upon as valuable, until needed.</p> <p>The world is changing drastically, on a daily basis. We need that ace in the hole. Should it be necessary.</p>
4/24/2019	Regarding the Selective Service program, I feel strongly that all young citizens and green card holders, male and female, should register for the draft. My preference is that these people serve 2 years mandatory service. It helps people to find their way, and learn their strengths and weakness; as well as appreciate the opportunities and freedoms we have in the USA.
4/24/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. So that there is a system in place of guidelines to provide are country with an expedient and fair draft of selective individuals.</li> <li>2. By giving them increased pay and educational benefits .</li> <li>3. Potential of being killed leaving behind a family; being gone for extended period of time .</li> <li>4. they would have a decrease in pay and benefits to leave their high paying jobs. ie Doctors, Engineers.</li> <li>5. Yes because in case of war you cant keep over taxing the Reserves and active duty personnel.</li> <li>6. Most likely as our Nation crisis is ever changing .</li> <li>7. Yes, because the voluntary draft is seeing less and less voluntary individuals. We need to keep our military strong in case of a war.</li> </ol>
4/24/2019	As an American, service is essential in keeping the fabric of our country tightly knit. Service builds bonds with your fellow citizens and enriches your mind, body and soul knowing that your fellow comrades are also there to be your brother/sister. You essentially become a family and you gain a priority of keeping your family safe at all times. Participation is down overall, in my point of view, because individuals already feel a sense of connectivity through social media, mainstream media and technology; however, service helps to establish a familial sense of worth, where as technology does not. I believe the military needs to focus less on "War Readiness" and focus on how the military wants to build bonds with all individuals that make our country and by building these bonds we are actually becoming anti-war. The U.S. military needs a rebranding to increase participation and it needs to be perceived as more than just a sector that engages in conflict. With the military you get to travel to a plethora of exotic lands, immerse yourself in different cultures and study abroad. The vast amount of education you get through the U.S. military far surpasses any type of education you could receive locally. Not only would the military help you educationally, but you have a great base towards the rest of your life. You gain a solid base by making life long connections with individuals all over the U.S. and the world, that is a huge opportunity in our global community. With that being said, I do believe that a mandatory service requirement is essential for national security, and I believe that all eligible individuals should be required to participate. After the mandatory threshold has been met a draft would then be implemented in times of need. As a millennial, I believe in a mandatory requirement for our country. With a mandatory requirement, the military will be able to hand select recruits based on physical prowess and intellectual standards lessening the burden of solicitation. The pool of applicants would be much more vast and it would help a younger generation gain access to a profusion of amazing resources. As well as finding a great sense of pride in their fellow man. Thank you for your time on this matter.

	<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Amy E. Quinlan</p>
4/24/2019	<p>Thank you for reading my thoughts on the Selective Service organization. I have served on the SS board for over 10 years. We are required to have at least one training session per year in addition to an all day initial training session. I am convinced that it is necessary to keep this program in order for our nation to be prepared should there be a draft or mandatory service program for young people. It would take a long time to set up a system should this program cease. With the uncertainties facing our country, we should be prepared. Our training includes how to conduct hearings for those who are asking for deferrals or exemptions. Since there are so many potential scenarios, it would take time for newbies to be oriented. I strongly recommend that the Selective Service program continue to be funded which is quite modest at this time.</p>
4/24/2019	<p>It's 2019. It's time to include women into the draft registration.</p>

4/24/2019

Value of Selective Service:

- 1) As a deterrent to enemies, it is a statement that we as a government of the people are willing and able of complete commitment of persons and resources to the defense of this nation.
- 2) Registration is a generational touch point for patriotism and though strongly underutilized, a mechanism to convey logical, historical, emotional and current world reality as foundations for civil and personal commitment to our way of life.
- 3) As systemic infrastructure to allow a cogent credibility of functional capacity of this nation to engage on this level if necessary.

How can it be made more effective:

- 1) Provide equal access to the obligation of national defense to the entire population, regardless of gender. Register all persons, legal participants in this society, at or over the age of 18.
- 2) Arrange for voluntary testing of aptitudes for potential qualification in identified skills pools. Such tests to be made available to individuals every 5 years from the age of 18 and or be challengeable with relevant degrees or certifications from professional institutions/organizations. Provide income tax benefits to those qualifying for the skill pools.
- 3) Require periodic (every 4 years or so) practice exercises up to, but not including, hiring additional personnel.
- 4) Have "scholars" design the messaging of perceptions of the "National Security Elite" for the target market that is our nations 18 year olds and facilitate its conveyance through the existing Selective Service structure.

Darren Wertz

4/24/2019

Dear Chairman Heck, Vice chairs Wada and Gearan, and Commissioners,

My name is Dr. Hoonjoo Lee, one of 11,000 volunteers working for the Selective Service System (SSS). I am proud of my fellow volunteers serving our country through the SSS and wholeheartedly support the agency and the current Director, Hon. Don Benton.

I shared my thoughts about Selective Service at the end of the hearings today, April 24th. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to express how much I care about our country as an SSS board member. That said, I would like to summarize my public comments and provide to you for your record.

1. Having Selective Service is definitely necessary and will be.

Having Selective Service may be similar to having an insurance for our nation. We buy an insurance not to gain a high-percentage return on investment but for an emergency. Having an insurance costs you, but it is necessary to protect what you have in case something goes wrong. Considering today's geopolitical issues, something can go wrong, very wrong, although we all want that to never happen. Therefore, having and strengthening Selective Service is definitely necessary.

2. We need modernized policy for Selective Service.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are in the era of Industry 4.0. Our national security and military superiority rely on Science and Technology (S&T) as well as the war-fighters' capability. Critical and emerging technologies in the battle field requires high brain-power. The current Selective Service policy seems to be a little bit old-fashioned for this generation. In addition, when it's about brain power, women are equally powerful as men are. Let us utilize one of our strengths, intellectual diversity.

3. The agency needs more resources to innovate the system.

Again, an insurance costs you. As a volunteer, I know that the SSS needs more support and resources to innovate the system which will address the issues that have been raised in the hearings today, such as:

(1) Effective communication with citizens

(2) Advanced registration

(3) Better preparedness against adversaries with cutting-edge S&T

The Department of Defense focuses on innovation that will enable the US military capability and mobility become faster, better and cheaper. Why not Selective Service? We can make that happen through the agency!

Thank you again. If you happen to have any questions or need further discussions, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I will be glad to answer to your questions and share more thoughts around Selective System as one of SSS volunteers.

	<p>Sincerely yours, Hoonjoo Lee, Ph.D.</p>
4/24/2019	The draft registration should be necessary for both males and females as they can now serve in combat roles. The draft is necessary in cases of national emergency. Now more than ever people will try to skirt their civic duty if it benefits them.

4/25/2019	<p>The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service should not consider eliminating the Selective Service System because of it's vital security role in the United States of America. This poor decision will hurt taxpayers and our students/future lawmakers by minimizing our roles to step up and fight for our nation. With the experience and professional contacts the Commission panel has, I believe they can look at other factors that does not dumb us down as a society and raise all of us to a level where we are accountable for our actions especially in the need of a national crisis.</p> <p>As a Selective Service Volunteer Board Member in DuPage County, Illinois, State of Illinois Licensed Educator/Leader, and a Hospital Discharge Planner, former United States Sailor, and military spouse, I believe my role is to educate and inspire citizens and children to be accountable for their actions as well as helping them achieve their personal goals of happiness. As a member of the human race, I do need education and public servants as advocates and not in the sense of eliminating the Selective Service System. This poor decision is devastating to our all-volunteer Armed Forces members and their families and would defeat the spirit of American contributions to our invaluable freedoms in this country. Please think about it especially in the case of your family members (i.e. children and grandchildren), friends, and colleagues.</p> <p>Lastly, I would also like you to seriously think about how this will NOT create a global, intelligent United States Citizen that we all know now. Could you tell us publicly on television and/or physically in our community centers what the positive and negative impacts are of your "educated" decision? Could you tell us the reasons why you would not look at other areas that would not impact our community in a negative manner? How do you plan on us being a better state and country when National defense is at the bottom of our priorities? By the time you eliminate the essentials to make us a "better" society; we will most likely have prisons overflowing with many individuals who do not deserve to be there because their leaders failed them.</p> <p>Thank you. Candice M. Daniel </p>
4/25/2019	It is the least we can do for this country.
4/25/2019	<p>#2 My Grandson is attending a college near my home He is paid nearly \$500 per month for one weekend per month. I am very proud of him, Why have a draft board when so many kids attend college after 4 months of service and their college is paid for.</p> <p>#7 Yes, most other countries have mandatory service requirements, why not us. (Vietnam Veteran 1st Lt. Signal Corp. 1968-1971.) James D. Rippy  Richmond, MO.  </p>

4/25/2019	<p>The Selective Service System provides us with an efficient means of not only preparation for a draft but also, potentially, a means for facilitating national service. If a draft were implemented, and if we operated under current SSS guidelines, contentious objectors would be directed into alternative service. We can readily direct young men into such service as a general operation now if we were so directed (assuming appropriate legislation was passed and implemented). Given the investment the government and individuals have made to create and operate SSS, we ought to make full use of it to fill critical service needs in our nation.</p> <p>Scott Gray Local SSS Board Member San Pedro, California [REDACTED]</p>
4/25/2019	<p>The United States Selective Service System is still a necessary component of our military defense. And because there are college benefits such as federal scholarships and federal grants -- these incentives are necessary for our youth's education, thus, will produce literate military personnel should they be activated via the draft. The post graduate employment opportunities for registered males also incentivizes the registrants and afford them employment opportunities not available to non-registered applicants. The whole draft system, should there be a national military emergency, is necessary to our national security. And most of all, it fosters patriotism to the United States, the freedom that it provides each citizen and the constitutional rights that citizen enjoy.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>Definitely the military draft is necessary. It is sad to me that we no longer enforce it, we seem to let things slide.</p> <p>I feel that the future does not bode well for the US and that the draft would help that. Draft for not only men, but women.</p> <p>I come from a Military family and military and Veterans are always in my thoughts. It seems that we have lost that. I don't know if it is due to lack of education, or family values.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>Yes, we need to maintain a Selective Service System that can spring into action in case of a national emergency.</p> <p>Two ways to increase participation by individuals with critical skills would be pay and benefits matching those in commerce.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>Selective service is an outdated sexist system. There are two options to make it non-discriminatory, abolish it or make all 18-25 year olds register regardless of gender.</p>

4/25/2019	<p>SOS America Essential Elements (Apr 24) (How to meet Potential National Mobilization Needs)</p> <p>Commission Members and Staff: I am Dean Hess (Colonel, USAF-ret), Senior Advisor to SOS America (Service over Self). <a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a>. 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 to you as a part, hopefully, a big part, of the solution to respond to national security emergencies. If implemented our program would give citizens military training prior to mobilization and allow the military services to setup and support additional training resources for mobilization requirements, a key shortfall in our current planning.</p> <p>As I said this morning General John Borling, our Chairman, has testified before you here in Washington but I take this opportunity to emphasize 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 opportunity for military training and service for our young citizens.</p> <p>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 non-combat mission needs of the services, guard and reserve, federal and state agencies.</p> <p>You have heard about positive motivation for National Service. If funded, National Service could allow participants a vehicle to payoff education loans or scholarships, earn a path to citizenship, etc. It's all about nation building in America. I commend to you all-- <a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a>. Service over Self. Thank you again.</p>
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4/25/2019	<p>SOS America Essential Elements (Future Mobilization Needs of Nation)</p> <p>Commission Members and Staff: I am Dean Hess (Colonel, USAF-ret), Senior Advisor to SOS America (Service over Self). <a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a>. 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.</p> <p>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-- <a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a>. Service over Self. Thank you.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>I personally feel that women should be registered. We live in a society where for generations when men were shipped off to war, women took over their roles. Women should have equal opportunities to service in the Armed forces especially in a time of crisis. As a 16 year old daughter whose parents have both served in the Marine Corp I feel that women can do what men can if we apply ourselves and work just as hard. We live in this country and we should contribute when needed and not be pushed aside because of our gender.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>The Selective Service system is vitally important to our national security. In this age of unknown threats and known threats removing or hampering of the SS system is short-sighted and ill planned. What we need to be doing is expanding outreach of young people and ensuring our records are up to date. We absolutely have to register women in the SS system. Leaving half of our population exempt from registration is absurd and foolhardy. My daughter is in the Civil Air Patrol and is wanting to serve her country. If her friend who wants to serve her country also but is not exposed to the military, how would she know she could do that? By including women in the SS system we allow for all of our citizens the opportunity to learn about military service and or public service.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>While I did not serve in the military, and would have been prohibited from doing so due to a spinal injury at age 17, I grew up with firearms and understand they are simple tools.</p> <p>As a 5’4” female who considers issues pragmatically, I see major fallacies with women in active combat whether through compulsory or volunteer service. Male and female anatomy is what it is. Human nature is what it is.</p> <p>That said, I hold a Concealed Carry Permit from the state of Massachusetts. I choose to understand the workings of tools that assist in protecting myself, my loved ones and, if necessary, my country. I do not need to be drafted into service to do so. I simply need the training to safely use such tools as needed.</p>

4/25/2019	<p>In our ever changing and shrinking world, preparedness is a vital part of life. To insure the future of the freedoms and standard of the life we enjoy, it is imperative that we maintain a level of preparedness for possible national service. Regardless of one's political inclinations or religious beliefs, we must realize that in the event of a national emergency we cannot start from square one, but we must have a plan in place. A quiet reflection on the freedoms and comforts we take for granted should instill a sense of obligation and, yes, patriotism toward our country.</p> <p>Brian Simmons Springfield, Missouri</p>
4/25/2019	<p>The draft is necessary, and I believe a mandatory service requirement for all Americans starting at age 18 is necessary. It would be a valuable character bulider and give all participants in my opinion a sense of pride in the USA.</p> <p>It is mandatory regardless of physical condition----there is always an alternative assignment.</p> <p>The Selective Service needs to be re-evaluated in structure and mission. It needs to reflect the Military core requirements. Bureaucracy should be eliminated and more of a flat line organization whose sole purpose is to evaluate alternative assignments for serving.</p>

4/25/2019	<p>25 April 2019</p> <p>Re: General Comments for the Commission Hearing on Modifying Selective Service Registration</p> <p>Dear Members of the Commission:</p> <p>My name is Ms. Eryth Zaveria Zecher. I was part of the U.S. Army Reserves for 28 years in both the active reserves and the Individual Ready Reserves as both a 90A and a 12B. During my time in the Army Reserves, I served three tours – two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. I was honorably discharged in 2015, at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and then began my quest for a 2nd bachelor’s degree in French followed by double master’s degree in Teaching English and French at Colorado State University. Because of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, I am able to pursue these goals.</p> <p>Below are my comments for the commission:</p> <p>The U.S. can increase the desire for young Americans to serve in two ways. Firstly, the U.S. stops creating barriers to service. Secondly, service organizations compensate Americans for the work they do at fair market value. Service to the U.S.A. on a full-time basis should not be volunteer work. It is not practical for a young American to spend years volunteering. However, organizations can offer education benefits that an American could use at any university that accepts them.</p> <p>My idea would be to offer a competitive compensation package and a four-year scholarship/tuition coverage in return for service in any organization, for three years. You already do some version of tuition reimbursement in over 85 federal agencies, but you do not advertise it very well. I think you will find that your recruitment increase, if you included full tuition coverage/reimbursement for all accredited universities– private or state, and if you also pay salaries that are at fair market value.</p> <p>For those who have their college or advanced degrees, then the service organizations could compensate them for their work at fair market value, and pay off their student loans, in exchange for three years of service. This would be regardless of student loan amount as long as it was for accredited education.</p> <p>In the civilian workforce, corporations compensate employees commensurate with their criticality. Their employment packages are generous, and often come with student loan repayment benefits. The public service organizations need to match that compensation. Public service organizations should promote more clearly scholarship opportunities at universities for majors that are critical to national security. Service organizations do not do a very good job at promoting themselves. There should be a cohesive campaign that educates people on how they can serve their country, and the scholarship/tuition reimbursement opportunities that are available. There are people who want to serve, but they do not know where to start.</p> <p>Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit comments. I think the work you are doing is very valuable.</p>
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4/25/2019	<p>The matter is very simple: do American citizens have the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? If so, then conscription must (not merely "should") be abolished, as it clearly violates all three. If not, then it must be abolished, since it clearly violates the thirteenth amendment; the arguments made in its defense in Arver vs United States would get you thrown out of a junior high debate club.</p> <p>There's no real room for argument here; either follow the law or change it.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>Continuous deployment to war zones couples with constant news of PTSD and suicides would seem to discourage most from voluntary service. Regular deployment of National Guard/Reservists to war is also a severe detriment to those services. It is obvious our Army/Marine forces are severely under manned for the overseas missions we are trying to accomplish. We MUST cut our commitments or increase troop numbers. I also notice very few E2s and E3s in troops. As a Viet Nam area sailor I had only a couple petty officers in my division, 2 E6, 2 E5, one CPO, and an Officer.</p> <p>A standby system for conscription is necessary and a one or two year National Service would be nice, however two year service would NOT serve to provide combat troops. They would be like reservists, under trained and armed with second line equipment.</p> <p>Increase troop levels and reduce deployments. Maybe give up a Nuke Carrier and fancy planes to fund troops. Every war since Korea has proven you must take AND HOLD ground to win or feed bodies into a grinder for no return.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>I'm a female veteran and my husband and children are all veterans. I am pro-military but not pro-draft. I watched a small portion of your video about whether women should be drafted and everyone seemed to be saying it in "All or Nothing" terms (the women would be drafted for any role - including combat or not drafted at all). I think that is stupid. If the US was at a point that they needed to draft women, then it should only be in non-combat roles (unless the individual woman ASKED to be in a combat role and could physically do it).</p> <p>I think you are better off focusing on why young people don't want to join the military. A big reason is the anti-American views they are learning in school. I would suggest working on changing that.</p>
4/25/2019	<p>I support freedom of conscience and the right to be free of coerced participation in militarism and war.</p> <p>The feminist movement has been largely anti-militaristic. Draft registration &amp; any forced participation in the military should be ended for both men &amp; women.</p> <p>The draft is consummate involuntary servitude &amp; human trafficking. Virtually all the modern western democracies have eliminated conscription.</p> <p>I did military, draft &amp; vets counseling from the Viet Nam thru the Gulf War eras. I saw the damage to human lives from this grotesque manipulation of human beings for militaristic ends. The govt. does not have the right to order its citizens to die or to kill.</p> <p>Mary S. Roth Ann Arbor, Mich.</p>

4/25/2019	We need proper funding and full time staff for each region so that we can do our jobs.
4/25/2019	In society, needs dictate a hierarchy of service. In peacetime, meals on wheels and being in the Army might be seen as equivalent. However, if a breach in national defense must be filled, military service (or service to support military operations) rises above all other service. Please don't make this decision under any kind of illusion that allows you to deny this fact.
4/25/2019	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?</p> <p>Creating a pool of combatants for fighting major wars...which will come again.</p> <p>Generating some sense of democratic fairness in terms of who fights for the country at least between males. Grossly unfair and unequal in terms of forcing women to fight as supposed 'equal' citizens.</p> <p>Forces the leaders who take us to war to have their own sons' (but not daughters' Skin in the Game.</p> <p>Forces privileged elites to have their own Skin in the Game. (Taleb)</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>It SHOULD do so by forcing non-combatants to care for and to pay for the true costs of combat to the combatant. That is by putting civilians' Skin in the Game. If the average civilian shared the suffering/cost of war, they'd be a lot less likely to allow their leaders to be warmongers for no good reason.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?</p> <p>Women are not YET forced to fight and they are not forced to fight in the most dangerous realms but they expect infantile entitlements paid for by the blood, sweat, and tears of male soldiers.</p> <p><b>NO MAN IN HIS RIGHT MIND SHOULD EVER FIGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY UNTIL WOMEN ARE FORCED TO FIGHT FOR THEIRS.</b></p> <p>How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation?</p> <p>By paying them properly for the danger, dirt, and discomfort. By forcing equal responsibility on women for the equal rights (actually superior) that they already enjoy.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Probably because war has not gone away.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Absolutely. Women should be forced to fight and die 50/50 with men.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>Yes. ALL (including women) or NONE, the only problem being that women can't fight.</p>

But you could also require women to offer their service as combat fuckers (which they generally ARE good at) rather than combat fighters. For instance, you could send a suicide bomber his 72 trained combat fucker virgins (2-3 would wear him out) BEFORE he pressed the button and blew himself and lots of innocents to hell. In any case, women need to deliver equal service results/responsibilities before being offered equal rights.

<p>4/25/2019</p>	<p>There are only two trivial options for equality:  - nobody is required to register for selective service  - everybody is required to register for selective service</p> <p>You are the first of many to bear responsibility for whatever happens to registrants.</p> <p>Males have always been disposable. It is your mandate to provide the government with personnel when it is requested of you, whether they be to build airplanes by the millions or throw themselves onto an enemy's bayonets by the millions.</p> <p>You owe innumerable combat veterans - who had no say in being sent into battle - a debt that you cannot repay. You are part of the bureaucracy that hold them hostage while dangling in front of them a carrot, their rights, while you simultaneously beat them with a stick (conscripted, abuse and punishment if they do not submit, and abuse and negligence if they survive).</p> <p>You strip them of various rights if they fail to register. Their right to vote for their government. Their right to a driver's license. Their right to government-issued social support.</p> <p>They are victimized and abused by your bureaucracy if they submit to your coercion.</p> <p>They are victimized and abused by your bureaucracy if they do not submit to your coercion.</p> <p>This isn't new. You've conscripted boys and sent them to their deaths by the thousands before they were even old enough to vote. If they refused, then you jailed or shot them yourselves. You've provided warmongering governments with the manpower they need to instigate conflicts and the cannon fodder and meat shields that they needed to absorb the reprisals.</p> <p>"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" indeed.</p> <p>The selective service should be dissolved. It is unethical, unconscionable, and anti-American.</p>
<p>4/25/2019</p>	<p>What are the most in demand skills needed ( ranked 1-10 ect. ) Within op-sec constraints. in military, public and national service.</p> <p>What is the maximum operational capacity of all armed force branches. How many people are needed for national gaurd service before redudancy.</p> <p>Please more clearly define means of public and national service. Is it volunteer work? Do we need a few million people training to take care of the aging population? Where are the areas of focus?</p>

	Thank you for your consideration.
4/26/2019	<p>As a member of my local Selective Service board, I believe that service is an incredibly valuable experience that should be extended to both young men and women. Having young women register for selective service along with their male peers helps to highlight every individuals right to serve our nation. I am also a believer in a mandatory service component for our nations youth - as the wife and daughter of past service members, I can attest to the benefit military service has provided in developing strong character and sense of individual value. I would like to see Jr ROTC programs in every major school district - both as a pathway to future military service and as a development opportunity for future military officers.</p> <p>Best regards, Barbara Rojas [REDACTED] San Diego, CA [REDACTED]</p>
4/26/2019	<p>What are barriers to participation in service? Many would like to serve but cannot afford to, financially. In most cases, there no salaries, low salaries or none at all.</p>
4/26/2019	<p>4. We need to first begin a campaign to change the mind set of many Americans to help them see that service is a reward in itself. That service is important to the strength building of the nation. To gain the participation of individuals with special skills, it is important to target them in outreach that appeals to them, specifically. Explain (where safe and possible) how and why they are needed and how their service would be helpful to the country. Offer incentives such as special training and travel. There are also great rewards in service, such as the learning received during the tenure.</p>
4/26/2019	<p>4. We need to first begin a campaign to change the mind set of many Americans to help them see that service is a reward in itself. That service is important to the strength building of the nation. To gain the participation of individuals with special skills, it is important to target them in outreach that appeals to them, specifically. Explain (where safe and possible) how and why they are needed and how their service would be helpful to the country. Offer incentives such as special training and travel. There are also great rewards in service, such as the learning received during the tenure.</p>

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4/26/2019	4. We need to first begin a campaign to change the mind set of many Americans to help them see that service is a reward in itself. That service is important to the strength building of the nation. To gain the participation of individuals with special skills, it is important to target them in outreach that appeals to them, specifically. Explain (where safe and possible) how and why they are needed and how their service would be helpful to the country. Offer incentives such as special training and travel. There are also great rewards in service, such as the learning received during the tenure.

4/26/2019	<p>5. Yes, the military draft is still a necessary component of the nation's National Defense System. I believe the success of complex and important endeavors is the continual preparation and planning for readiness. This is why the SSS is still needed and in this role to facilitate a smooth system.</p> <p>Let us not be lulled into a false sense of security. Currently, our military branches are dependent upon volunteerism. Do not assume that today's volunteer numbers will continue to be sufficient for our deployment needs. Imagine a situation where we need to engage on several different fronts, simultaneously, based on confronting issues that are unpopular here at home. Will we be able to depend on volunteers on that day?</p> <p>The world is changing, daily and that change is bring more and more violence. Sometimes, the violence is cyclical yet, more sophisticated and technologically advanced. We need to be prepared. After all, we are only twenty years away from New York City, September 11, 2001</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LET'S KEEP AMERICA SAFE AND READY FOR THE NEW WORLD WE FACE. WE MUST LET THE SSS STAND!</p> <p>Currently, the military branches are dependent upon volunteerism.</p>
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4/26/2019	As part of the Selective Service, I can't imagine anyone would not want this organization to continue. As an American it is imperative that we maintain our security for all fellow Americans and their allies. It has been an institution for a long time. If we were to need the draft, and I hope we won't, but if we did and couldn't, it could be the end. Let's look out for our country and maintain our safety and security. I also feel some type of participation in the service for all Americans should be mandatory.
4/26/2019	<p>6/7. Yes, we need significant modifications to the SSS. We need to target the population of Women, Special Skills and all healthy Young People (male and female) if not drafted to the military, must be assigned to a National or Public Service, to be designed).</p> <p>One sex should not be responsible for our nation's defense. We should draft women. They are volunteering, today and we now know that women can serve in the military as well as men.</p> <p>All able bodied young people (18 to 23) should serve the nation in one of the services for at least two years. This would move America toward a more secure and safe nation with an upgraded quality of life, in addition, other national services could help alleviate many of the problems we don't yet confront. The greatest benefit of all would be to the young people. The same benefits and rewards I received enlisting in the US Women's Army Corp at 18: a specialized skill, confidence, team work, discipline, travel and I could go on. This would help to develop a strong population of young people who are then ready to begin their lives as more responsible adults.</p>
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4/26/2019	There is no space for sex discrimination in the modern world. Therefore, I urge you to end selective service registration for males, or make it compulsory also for females. Please do one or the other. .
4/26/2019	War and conflict are changing and that change will continue. But if an enemy destroys or interrupts our technological advantages, we'll need to be able to win with brute force. Make sure that your recommendations provide for military members who can trust each other's abilities and win that fight.
4/26/2019	I am 1000% in favor of mandatory service.

	<p>Whether it be the the military, Coast Guard, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, YouthBuild, City Year, Teach for America or even a new CCC type organization, our country and our citizens need this type of service.</p>
<p>4/27/2019</p>	<p>I wish to add my commentary to the 24 April 2019 hearing of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service held at Gallaudet University. As a retired intelligence officer I have a keen understanding of the threats that face our Nation. I support the existence of the Selective Service System as an essential means of fulfilling our duties as citizens under Article One, Section 8 of the Constitution - granting Congress the authority to raise armies and maintain a navy for our mutual defense. I concur with many of the speakers that Selective Service must include the registration of women if we are to achieve equality and derive the benefit of their diversity and contributions to military/civil service. I say this not as an experiment in social engineering but as a recognition that the male only requirement under existing regulations/policies disenfranchises nearly half our population and disrespects the contributions women can and have made through their service. Diversity has historically shown to strengthen our military services. This is the time to cast off any vestage of women being a weaker sex and embrace them as sisters in arms during a national crisis. It is also imperative to reenforce one's duty to serve, regardless of gender, as a function of citizenship. I would like to see the "draft" reinstated to ensure a broader segment of our population and social classes have an appreciation for military/civil service. I believe a "draft" would encourage greater participation in government and an appreciation for the diversity that exists within our Country. I respect the religous and phylisophical views of Quakers/pacifists. I support mechanisims within the Selective Service System that grant waivers or alternative means of service to our Nation for said persons. However, calls to disband Selective Service are foolish and misguided as they do not appreciate the threats to our freedom from domestic and foreign adversaries. Only a psychopath wishes to kill. A solider kills out of neccesity to preserve the lives and freedom of others...lest we be led as lambs to the slaughter or enslaved. I leave it to the generals to decide how large a standing army we need to ward off those that would impose their will upon us. Thank you for your service and consideration of my views.</p>

4/27/2019	<p>This morning's NPR report (4/27) is my first hearing of this commission. I was immediately struck with the emphasis on combat/military service with no mention of public service of a more general nature. I'm pleased to find here a more inclusive mission description which includes exploring "a norm for every American to devote at least a full year to either military, national, or public service."</p> <p>A revision of this subject is, of course, long overdue and most people have no idea that Selective Service is still on the books, giving it little or no thought thanks to the common descriptor "all-volunteer military." (That definition is misleading since many young people enlist in the military due as much to the scarcity of other opportunities available, but that is another discussion.)</p> <p>I offer my input here for the record with little expectation that it will have much of an impact. But I want it recorded for my children and their children in case they ever become curious enough to look it up.</p> <p>As a child of the Sixties (anti-war, anti-segregation, women's lib and all that) I was drafted in 1965 as a conscientious objector and steadfast opponent of the draft altogether. Fearing I might be labeled a coward the rest of my life I made the decision at the time to request having my draft status changed from 1-A to 1-AO (serving in uniform), thus avoiding the primary CO status of 1-O (serving in civilian capacity only). These are subtleties of the system most people have no idea even exist, but at that time those of us on the "front lines" at home were faced with several options other than those three -- including non-cooperator (serving time in prison) or fleeing to another country, with Canada being the preferred destination.</p> <p>Having been reared as a good Southern Baptist whose father had lost his younger brother in WW2 and with other family members who were professional military people, I wanted to avoid the "draft-dodger" or "coward" labels so uniformed service was my preferred option. (Most people do not realize but all COs become Army Medics, no exceptions, &amp; are sent to Ft. Sam Houston, TX for modified basic training. No COs in other branches of service.)</p> <p>It's along story, but during the years after I was discharged my attitude about Selective Service changed slowly but surely from negative to positive, especially as I thought about the concept of "national service" (not necessarily military/combat) as several other countries also have for their young people.</p> <p>I must admit that my two years in the Army (Korea, not Vietnam) were among the most memorable of my life. They were as important to my growth and education as all the formal education and other life experiences I have had. And finally, I'm convinced that obligatory national service is not too much to expect of any citizen.</p> <p>One afterthought: if all the body bags returned from the wars of the last few years had carried draftees I bet there would have been fewer or shorter wars.</p>
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4/27/2019	<p>I think it would be good to register all eligible Americans in the selective service. I do think it is necessary to remind the citizens of an obligation we have to defend our country. My concern is: can we really defend ourselves if we are invaded. I have a suggestion -lets take high school seniors for 4-6 weeks in April &amp; May -and introduce them to the military &amp; civilian options -AND- train them how to use/take care of a gun (rifle, shotgun and handgun), How to use a drone etc., how to handle emergencies including weather, terrorist attack, hazardous incidents, foreign invasion and the knowledge of what supplies/radio/where to report/how to survive nerve or biological agents, bombs, fires, civil disruptions , how to help the local governments, first aid... How to be fit - maybe have actual "boot camp" physical obstacles to try out. I feel that we really don't have a national awareness &amp; knowledge of what to do in a crisis. I 'd like to know some of this too a &amp; maybe we could allow older adults to take in the days or evenings too. I think this would do us all good &amp; maybe bring us together as a nation. All this could be tied in to what career paths are available in the military and civil services. I think if we made the "what seems to be a scary option" into required everyday knowledge - it would go along way to open the generations' eyes to possibilities &amp; hopefully better national capability. Then, let it be those who want to go into military or civil service. AND those that do, should be rewarded with pay, free education &amp; REAL job options as civilians. For example - we need more paid firefighters ; some might be great teachers who could teach the next generation, etc. Frankly, I'd like to attend such a program. I bet other nations do this. My concern is that can we - as a nation- mount a true readiness if a military or vast disaster emergency occurs. I also think fear of the unknown due to lack of concrete knowledge -both of the physical items and the real people in these fields- may be part of what deters people from interest in military &amp; civil options. I also think we should have many local sites where people can go in emergencies to obtain food &amp; tools etc. for emergencies &amp; such maintained by staff - another job possibility or service option. Our schools sit idle for months in the summer - waste of money &amp; facility / bus people in- &amp; maybe this is when older people could take/be required to take. Maybe an opportunity for veterans to teach. Thank You.</p>
4/27/2019	<p>Extend SSS registration to ALL, and extend service options beyond just military service, so that ALL can have "skin in the game" of contributing to our American way of life. With rights come responsibilities.</p>
4/28/2019	<p>I have been serving on the Selective Service Board for 19 years. It is a valuable asset to the military for acquiring the best of the best to protect and serve our country.</p>
4/28/2019	<p>The federal government, with bipartisan support, has been and is engaged in wars that are illegal under treaties and domestic law. The American people, as disclosed in official government documents, have been lied to repeatedly by its elected representatives about the reasons for these wars in order to gain the people's support. As Thomas Jefferson said, truth is the first casualty of war.</p> <p>Congress has abdicated its constitutional responsibility to debate and decide whether to declare war. Such a debate would help bring transparency to the actual reasons war is being sought. To draft citizens for service in illegal and undeclared wars is abusive of the Constitution, democracy and the American people. There is no greater crime than a government sending its citizens, whether drafted or volunteered, to kill or be killed based on lies.</p> <p>What moral responsibility do people who serve in the Selective Service have in such a situation?</p>

4/28/2019	The Commission can be more pro-active in the following way: (1) Let young men & women know about its existence, and the current requirement for young men to register for the draft by a quarterly advertising campaign using all available public media, including (and especially) social media; (2) encourage Congress to make registering for the Draft mandatory for all men & WOMEN attaining the age of 18; (3) if the Draft is reinstated, seek a monthly stipend for all active members of the Draft Board; (4) Make sure (if not done already) that no federal benefits, including school money, is provided to anyone that HAS NOT registered for the Draft, as required by current law.
4/28/2019	VA healthinsurance should be the same as what our congress and senate get
4/28/2019	The Selective Service is an important part of our nations security and defensive strategies. I ask that you retain it. Thank you
4/28/2019	Registration should, absolutely, be extended to all citizens. Should the need for mobilization arise, we will be in the need of every able-bodied man, woman, transgender, etc person. Women have been in the United States Army since the Revolutionary War, our SSS should embrace that. Being registered to be a part of the solution should something go awry is an honor to be bestowed on all Americans, not just men.
4/28/2019	Question, "Is it necessary and desirable to keep a Selective Service System in place?" My answer: Yes! Although it seems improbable to most that we would ever again need a military draft, we need to always be ready for the improbable (look no further than Pearl Harbor or 9/11). Sincerely, Mike Albrecht (local board member Region 3, Area Office 008, [REDACTED]).
4/28/2019	Question, "Is it necessary and desirable to keep a Selective Service System in place?" My answer: Yes! Although it seems improbable to most that we would ever again need a military draft, we need to always be ready for the improbable (look no further than Pearl Harbor or 9/11). Sincerely, Mike Albrecht (local board member Region 3, Area Office 008, [REDACTED]).
4/29/2019	Dear Committee, It is only fair that females be required to register for SSS if you continue to ask young men to do so. It is blatant sex discrimination and President Carter should never have re-instituted registration. I realize he ask that females be included. Females can be assigned non-combatant jobs as easily as men back then and have been eligible for combat slots for several years now. Why is this taking so long to rectify? The SSS was the only way the Vietnam War could have done the damage that war caused, and is still a sore history on our country. The inequities are still being felt. There is much fault to be found in the current statute. One is the effects of the Solomon federal provisions. Another is the spin off to states benefits, such as denial of driver's license, employment at state level, and other benefits. One extreme example is denial of the the Permanent Fund in Alaska to young men who don't register. The Rosker v. Goldberg Supreme Court decision was a political decision and poorly reasoned. The best solution is to do away with the SSS entirely. Remove penalties for men who have been denied employment, student loans, etc. The men who lost their Federal and state jobs should be offered re-employment.  Glenn Davison [REDACTED]

	Springfield, MO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
4/29/2019	As a Federal judge has now declared that male only draft registration is unconstitutional, why shouldn't any selective service employee who continues to register men or advise men they must register, face charges of conspiracy to deny civil rights?

4/29/2019

Good morning,

My name is Jamie Dake and I'm an alumni of the AmeriCorps St. Louis program. It was a life changing experience and led me to a life of public service. I'm an advocate and supporter of all the programs led by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Additionally, my wife spent a year in Texas as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Texas. I hope one day our kids will also feel the pull to serve their nation. Two changes I'd like to see to encourage a life of public service are the following:

Under the Federal Employment Retirement System, you can make a payment for Peace Corps or AmeriCorps VISTA service, in order to credit it toward your retirement. However, the 2 years I spent serving in an AmeriCorps State program are not eligible for the same credit. My service included responding to ice storms in New Hampshire and Maine, Wildfires in Minnesota and Florida, and Tornados in Michigan. This was above and beyond the service my team and I did in Missouri. This doesn't seem fair or reasonable. I know I'm not alone in this situation. This same benefit should be offered to AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps State and National Service alumni.

Similarly I took the following form the CNCS website: "Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) is a special hiring path for federal jobs. NCE is a hiring authority that allows federal agencies to hire AmeriCorps VISTA alumni outside the traditional hiring process. NCE status does not guarantee employment. AmeriCorps VISTA alumni must still apply and meet qualification standards and additional requirements, such as a background investigation. Upon successful completion of service, AmeriCorps VISTA alumni receive one year of NCE status." This same benefit should be offered to AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps State and National Service alumni.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the hearing today as I have to work. I'm excited to hear about the progress you'll make towards improving current national service policies and processes. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

In service,

Jamie Dake

Jamie Dake

Senior Program Specialist | Individual Assistance | FEMA R6 | DHS



4/29/2019	<p>Testimony for the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service Submitted by David Swanson, April 16, 2019 <a href="http://davidswanson.org/testimony-for-the-national-commission-on-military-national-and-public-service/">http://davidswanson.org/testimony-for-the-national-commission-on-military-national-and-public-service/</a></p> <p>I was more surprised that your commission contacted me with a kind-of, sort-of invitation to speak than that you ultimately decided not to include me. I thank you for inviting me to submit testimony.</p> <p>You had read my article, “Draft Registration Will Be Either Ended or Imposed on Women.” I’ve included it below.</p> <p>I understand that you had already booked these four speakers and then managed to add a fifth: Edward Hasbrouck, Diane Randall, Jude Eden, Mark Coppenger.</p> <p>I agree with Hasbrouck (and presumably Diane Randall, and the then-Secretary of the Army a couple of years ago, and these 12,000 petition signers) that Selective Service should be ended. I also agree with Hasbrouck that a military draft / compulsory military service would be a failure in the sense that it would be contentious and unfair and widely resisted and evaded and denounced. I’m less confident than he may be that those who want it would regard this as a failure. Any draft would get more people into the military than no draft. It is not uncommon for people in power to believe that unfair, contentious, polarizing policies benefit them. Are Trump’s immigration policies a failure in his eyes because they are contentious, polarizing, cruel, criminal, impeachable, and shameful? Clearly not. But the proposals of a long thorough study can aspire to greater wisdom than the buffoonery of a fascistic unclothed emperor.</p> <p>Jude Eden apparently believes that drafting weak, incompetent women into the U.S. military would reduce that military’s ability to destroy places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, Syria, or even Venezuela. And what a loss to the world that would be! With women lowering the military’s standards, it would be unable to generate as much hatred for the United States. It would be incapable of destabilizing as much of the world, too wimpy to produce the same level of environmental and climate destruction, and just too soft to burn through over \$1 trillion a year spreading hatred, eroding liberties, and militarizing society. Think of it: we’d have equal rights but lack the capacity to kill as many human beings. That would, apparently, be a very sad case of taking one step forward and two back. If I agreed with Jude Eden that such would be the result of adding women to Selective Service, I’d have to seriously consider supporting that policy as preferable to the status quo. But the military has been and will continue rolling right along with signing up as many men and women as it can, and training them to murder to the extent that it is able. Many members of the military may want to keep women out, just as they may want to be welcomed as liberators in Iran or Venezuela, but there is no rational basis for such beliefs.</p> <p>Mark Coppenger told a Christian media outlet that it would be “absurd, even despicable, to force our nation’s mothers, daughters and sisters</p>
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[to] suit up.” He was not asked for any sort of explanation of the absurdity or despicableness, but it clearly was not because murdering large numbers of people with counterproductive and catastrophic results is a horrible thing to do. Rather, Coppenger would clearly prefer that fathers, sons, and brothers be forced to do it. The generous view of his attitude toward women is that he cares enough about them not to put them through hell. I agree with that view. I just want it expanded to men. In fact, failure to care about boys helps to produce men who are willing to engage in senseless violence, and I would prefer to break that vicious cycle by treasuring all people.

One reason I was surprised to hear from a national commission on anything is that I have argued for the reduction, not the expansion, of nationality, of national-level activities. Service, real or sadistic, voluntary or compelled, can of course be provided at the local or regional or continental or global level. The key reason for making it national is that nations have militaries. I told you that, given the right circumstances, I might support compulsory service. It would have to be non-military, and not tied to a military agenda. I’d support mandatory voting in a nation or other jurisdiction with fair and open elections meeting international standards for freedom from corruption and for verifiable results, or even in the United States. I think it’s telling what a struggle it is in the United States to create automatic voter registration, as compared to the priority given to draft registration. Isn’t voting the very first “service” to begin with? I support compulsory jury duty. I support taxation, though not how it is now done. I think a government that can’t tax the privileged should drop all pretense that it will draft them. But a legitimate service that actually served people, such as work to mitigate climate collapse, if fairly organized by a legitimate body, I might support. I’m not opposing service simply to oppose it. I’m opposing the crime of violating the United Nations Charter and the Kellogg Briand Pact, the crime of war. Here’s a video of the sort of things I have to say about why.

#### Draft Registration Will Be Either Ended or Imposed on Women

A choice must now be made. It is officially unconstitutional to discriminate against 18-year-old women by not forcing them to sign up to be forced against their will to kill and die for Venezuela’s oil or some other noble cause.

Yes, the fine U.S. judiciary has declared for-men-only Selective Service registration to be verboten.

That’s not to say there isn’t debate on the matter. One side holds that women should be treasured as the delicate witless pieces of property they are because the Bible says so, and therefore they must be kept out of war entirely. The other side says that good modern liberal progressive feminists should demand the right of every woman to be forced, on pain of prison or even death, to help murder a million Iraqis for the cause of creating ISIS or some similar high purpose. Enlightened women demand not only equal pay, but equal moral injury, PTSD, brain injury, suicide risk, lost limbs, violent tendencies, and the chance to board airplanes first while everybody thanks them for their “service.”

To comply with the Constitution, the U.S. government now must either . . .

Abide by the U.N. Charter and the Kellogg Briand Pact and stop launching wars.

Undo corporate-personhood and dollar-speech, eliminating the influence of war profits and stop launching wars.

Impeach and remove fascist warmongers and stop launching wars.  
or . . .

Wait a minute, sorry, I saw the word “Constitution” and lost touch with normalized illegality. What I meant to say was: To comply with the Constitution, the U.S. government now must either . . .

Impose draft registration on men and women alike, or  
Abolish draft registration.

Which brings us to an even crazier debate, that between the huge percentage of peace activists who favor not only draft registration but a draft, and those of us who want to see the draft abolished and war along with it. Those favoring a draft as a means to peace may tend to line up with those favoring the feminist right to be forced to kill and die. You’ll have to ask them how comfortable they are in that company. Those of us favoring the abolition of draft registration, of course, find ourselves lined up beside misogynistic warmongers.

How do I like that company? Frankly, I couldn’t care less. It’s not the point. I agree, on the topic of ending wars, with libertarians who want to end wars for the same reasons they want to end schools and parks and environmental protections. I agree on withdrawing U.S. troops from Syria and Afghanistan with certain carefully selected and not acted upon statements made by the current occupant of the White House. “You can’t help people being right for the wrong reasons,” said Arthur Koestler. “This fear of finding oneself in bad company is not an expression of political purity. It is an expression of a lack of self confidence.”

But how can I be so confident that ending Selective Service is the right thing to do?

The military draft has not been used in the United States since 1973. Neither has the War Powers Resolution, but that could very well change this month. The draft machinery has remained in place, costing the federal government about \$25 million a year. Males over 18 have been required to register for the draft since 1940 (except between 1947 and 1948, and between 1975 and 1980) and still are today, with no option to register as conscientious objectors or to choose peaceful productive public service. The only reason for keeping Selective Service in place is because the draft might be started up again. While most states’ governments claim that making voter registration automatic would be too much trouble, they have made draft registration automatic for men. This suggests which registration is seen as a priority.

We’re all familiar with the argument behind peace activists’ demand for the draft, the argument that Congressman Charles Rangel made when proposing to start up a draft some years back. U.S. wars, while killing almost exclusively innocent foreigners, also kill and injure and traumatize thousands of U.S. troops drawn disproportionately from among those lacking viable educational and career alternatives. A fair draft, rather than a poverty draft, would send — if not modern-day Donald Trumps, Dick Cheneys, George W. Bushes, or Bill Clintons — at least some offspring of relatively powerful people to war. And that would create opposition, and that opposition would end the war. That’s the argument in a nutshell. Let me offer 10 reasons why I think this is sincere but misguided.

History doesn't bear it out.' The drafts in the U.S. civil war (both sides), the two world wars, and the war on Korea did not end those wars, despite being much larger and in some cases fairer than the draft during the American war on Vietnam. Those drafts were despised and protested, but they took lives; they did not save lives. The very idea of a draft was widely considered an outrageous assault on basic rights and liberties even before any of these drafts. In fact, a draft proposal was successfully argued down in Congress by denouncing it as unconstitutional, despite the fact that the guy who had actually written most of the Constitution was also the president who was proposing to create the draft. Said Congressman Daniel Webster on the House floor at the time (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, in what article or section is it contained, 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, which now for the first time comes forth, with a tremendous and baleful aspect, to trample down and destroy the dearest rights of personal liberty?" When the draft came to be accepted as an emergency wartime measure during the civil and first world wars, it never would have been tolerated during peacetime. (And it's still not anywhere to be found in the Constitution.) Only since 1940 (and under a new law in '48), when FDR was still working on manipulating the United States into World War II, and during the subsequent 75 years of permanent wartime has "selective service" registration gone on uninterrupted for decades. The United States had an active draft from 1940 to 1973. It didn't stop any wars. The active draft ended in '73, but the War on Vietnam continued until '75. The draft machine is part of a culture of war that makes kindergarteners pledge allegiance to a flag and 18-year-old males sign up to express their willingness to go off and kill people as part of some unspecified future government project. The government already knows your Social Security number, sex, and age. The purpose of draft registration is in great part war normalization. People bled for this. When voting rights are threatened, when elections are corrupted, and even when we are admonished to hold our noses and vote for one or another of the god-awful candidates regularly placed before us, what are we reminded of? People bled for this. People risked their lives and lost their lives. People faced fire hoses and dogs. People went to jail. That's right. And that's why we should continue the struggle for fair and open and verifiable elections. But what do you think people did for the right not to be drafted into war? They risked their lives and lost their lives. They were hung up by their wrists. They were starved and beaten and poisoned. Eugene Debs, hero of Senator Bernie Sanders, went to prison for speaking against the draft. What would Debs make of the idea of peace activists supporting a draft in order to stir up more peace activism? I doubt he'd be able to speak through his tears. Millions dead is a cure worse than the disease. I am very well convinced that the peace movement shortened and ended the war on Vietnam, not to mention removing a president from office, helping to pass other progressive legislation, educating the public, communicating to the world that there was decency hiding in the United States, and — oh, by the way — ending the draft. And I have zero doubt that the draft had helped to build the peace movement. But the draft did not contribute to ending the war before that war had done far more damage than has any war since. We can cheer for the draft ending the war, but four million Vietnamese lay dead, along with Laotians, Cambodians, and over 50,000 U.S. troops. And as the war ended, the dying continued. Many more U.S. troops came home and killed themselves than had died in the war. Children are still born deformed by Agent Orange and other poisons used. Children are still ripped apart by explosives left behind. If you add up numerous wars in numerous nations, the United States has inflicted death and suffering on the Middle East to equal or surpass that in

Vietnam, but none of the wars has used anything like as many U.S. troops as were used in Vietnam. If the U.S. government had wanted a draft and believed it could get away with starting one, it would have. If anything, the lack of a draft has restrained the killing. The U.S. military would add a draft to its existing billion-dollar recruitment efforts, not replace one with the other. And the far greater concentration of wealth and power now than in 1973 pretty well assures that the children of the super-elite would not be conscripted.

Dont underestimate support for a draft.' The United States has a much greater population than do most countries of people who say they are ready to support wars and even of people who say they would be willing to fight a war. Forty-four percent of U.S. Americans now tell Gallup polling that they "would" fight in a war. Why aren't they now fighting in one? That's an excellent question, but one answer could be: Because there's no draft. What if millions of young men in this country, having grown up in a culture absolutely saturated in militarism, are told it's their duty to join a war? You saw how many joined without a draft between September 12, 2001, and 2003. Is combining those misguided motivations with a direct order from the "commander in chief" (whom many civilians already refer to in those terms) really what we want to experiment with? To protect the world from war?!

The supposedly non-existent peace movement is quite real. Yes, of course, all movements were bigger in the 1960s and they did a great deal of good, and I'd willingly die to bring back that level of positive engagement. But the notion that there has been no peace movement without the draft is false. The strongest peace movement the United States has seen was probably that of the 1920s and 1930s. The peace movements since 1973 have restrained the nukes, resisted the wars, and moved many in the United States further along the path toward supporting war abolition. Public pressure blocked the United Nations from supporting recent wars, including the 2003 attack on Iraq, and made supporting that war such a badge of shame that it has kept Hillary Clinton out of the White House at least twice so far. It also resulted in concern in 2013 among members of Congress that if they backed the bombing of Syria they'd been seen as having backed "another Iraq." Public pressure was critical in upholding a nuclear agreement with Iran in 2015. There are many ways to build the movement. You can elect a Republican president and easily multiply the ranks of the peace movement 100-fold the next day. But should you? (This was tried in 2016 and failed miserably.) You can play on people's bigotry and depict opposition to a particular war or weapons system as nationalistic and macho, part of preparation for other better wars. But should you? You can draft millions of young men off to war and probably see some new resisters materialize. But should you? Have we really given making the honest case for ending war on moral, economic, humanitarian, environmental, and civil liberties grounds a fair try?

Doesnt Joe Biden's son count? I too would love to see a bill passed requiring that congress members and presidents deploy to the front lines of any war they support. But in a society gone mad enough for war, even steps in that direction wouldn't end the war making. It appears the U.S. military killed the Vice President's son through reckless disregard for its own cannon fodder. Will the Vice President even mention it, much less make a move to end the endless warmaking? Don't hold your breath. U.S. Presidents and Senators used to be proud to send their offspring off to die. If Wall Street can out-do the gilded age, so can the servants of the military industrial complex.

We build a movement to end war by building a movement to end war. The surest way we have of reducing and then ending militarism, and the racism and materialism with which it is interwoven, is to work for the end of war. By seeking to make wars bloody enough for the aggressor that he stops aggressing, we would essentially be moving in the same direction as we already have by turning public opinion against wars in which U.S. troops die. I understand that there might be more concern over wealthier troops and greater numbers of troops. But if you can open people's eyes to the lives of gays and lesbians and transgendered people, if you can open people's hearts to the injustices facing African

Americans murdered by police, if you can bring people to care about the other species dying off from human pollution, surely you can also bring them even further along than they've already come in caring about the lives of U.S. troops not in their families — and perhaps even about the lives of the non-Americans who make up the vast majority of those killed by U.S. warmaking. One result of the progress already made toward caring about U.S. deaths has been greater use of robotic drones. We need to be building opposition to war because it is the mass murder of beautiful human beings who are not in the United States and could never be drafted by the United States. A war in which no Americans die is just as much a horror as one in which they do. That understanding will end war.

The right movement advances us in the right direction. Pushing to end the draft will expose those who favor it and increase opposition to their war mongering. It will involve young people, including young men who do not want to register for the draft and young women who do not want to be required to start doing so. A movement is headed in the right direction if even a compromise is progress. A compromise with a movement demanding a draft would be a small draft. That would almost certainly not work any of the magic intended, but would increase the killing. A compromise with a movement to end the draft might be the ability to register for non-military service or as a conscientious objector. That would be a step forward. We might develop out of that new models of heroism and sacrifice, new nonviolent sources of solidarity and meaning, new members of a movement in favor of substituting civilized alternatives for the whole institution of war.

The war mongers want the draft too. It's not only a certain section of peace activists who want the draft. So do the true war mongers. The selective service tested its systems at the height of the occupation of Iraq, preparing for a draft if needed. Various powerful figures in D.C. have proposed that a draft would be more fair, not because they think the fairness would end the warmaking but because they think the draft would be tolerated. Now, what happens if they decide they really want it? Should it be left available to them? Shouldn't they at least have to recreate the selective service first, and to do so up against the concerted opposition of a public facing an imminent draft? Imagine if the United States joins the civilized world in making college free. Recruitment will be devastated. The poverty draft will suffer a major blow. The actual draft will look very desirable to the Pentagon. They may try more robots, more hiring of mercenaries, and more promises of citizenship to immigrants. We need to be focused on cutting off those angles, as well as on in fact making college free.

Take away the poverty draft too. The unfairness of the poverty draft is not grounds for a larger unfairness. It needs to be ended too. It needs to be ended by opening up opportunities to everyone, including free quality education, job prospects, life prospects. Isn't the proper solution to troops being stop-losses not adding more troops but waging less war?

There's also the danger of the path begun with expansion of draft registration to women leading next to compulsory short-term "national service" for all. This might even be done with military and non-military options, though one can imagine what the struggle would look like to try to give the non-military servitude — excuse me, service — the same compensation and benefits as the military.

I recommend that we actually find common ground to what little extent it exists with those who say that we should treasure women so much that we would never send them off to kill or die. Then we should work to expand that admirable outlook to include men too. Can't we treasure men that much?

We should help find young women and men career prospects outside the machinery of death. Help create the universal right to free college. Repair the unfairness of the poverty draft and the stop-lossing of troops by giving young people alternatives and ending the wars. When we

end the poverty draft and the actual draft, when we actually deny the military the troops it needs to wage war, and when we create a culture that views murder as wrong even when engaged in on a large scale and even when all the deaths are foreign, and even when women are equally involved in the killing, then we'll actually get rid of war, not just acquire the ability to stop each war four million deaths into it.

We need a movement with women and men from around the world to create a global treaty banning all military conscription for all people.

We need a movement to abolish sexism, racism, environmental destruction, mass incarceration, poverty, illiteracy, and war.

4/29/2019	<p>I believe that women should be granted equality in opportunity to serve in the armed forces. Equally so I believe that both men and women should have the opportunity to complete required service to their country through non-military engagement. I would support the idea of a draft for both men and women provided it is not exclusively for the purposes of conducting war, but also for conducting peace. This goes beyond the inclusion of non-combat roles in military operations, and goes on to include a draft to support peacemaking through humanitarian endeavor. Please, no equal draft without provision for building a peace force as well as a war force. Peace is never achieved through military action, and the absence of war does not equal the presence of peace. Do not sanction war further than it already is by a military-only draft that includes both men and women.</p> <p>Reynaldo Hernandez [REDACTED] South Bend IN [REDACTED]</p>
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4/29/2019

Dear Commissioners,

I totally agree with the proposals being considered by the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service for re-invigorating public service. In particular, I would like to offer some suggestions for your fourth item –“We are considering ways for the federal government to encourage best practices in effective civic education throughout elementary, middle, and high school.”

My first comment is that I believe that college level education should be included in your recommendations for civic education. Massachusetts public higher education developed the “Visions Project” a few years ago to highlight the outcomes expected for college graduates. One of the seven goals of the project is:

PREPARING CITIZENS

Providing students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be active, informed citizens.

<http://www.mass.edu/visionproject/whatsnew.asp#civicconference>

Perhaps any college or university receiving federal funds could be expected to develop and implement a program that provides students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be active, informed citizens. So as not to be overly prescriptive, the U.S. Department of Education could simply make that a request to all such colleges and might even ask the college/university to report how they plan to achieve this goal. A similar request might be made to chief state education officers to report how they plan to implement such a goal in the K-12 system of education in their respective states.

Second, if the Commission has not yet made contact, I would suggest that former Congressman Lee Hamilton of Indiana be asked for his input.

Congressman Hamilton was instrumental in convening several national conferences on civic education through the US Department of Education that focused on improving the quality of civic education throughout the nation. Other important sources might be Justice Sandra Day O'Connor under whose auspices iCivics was developed and Chuck Quigley of the Center for Civic Education which developed Project Citizen and We, the People, the Citizen and the Constitution programs. Another key resource would be Ted McConnell of the Civic Mission of Schools project. I would commend to you their publication (2011) entitled "Guardians of Democracy: The Civic Mission of Schools." If the commission has not reached out to each of these resources, I strongly recommend contacting them.

When I served in the Massachusetts Senate, I chaired a special commission on civic learning and engagement. A copy of the commission's report is on line at [www.masscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Civic-Ed-Commission-Report](http://www.masscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Civic-Ed-Commission-Report).

If I can be of any assistance to the National Commission, please feel free to contact me.

Richard T. Moore,

Former Massachusetts State Senator and Past President of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Contact:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Uxbridge, MA [REDACTED]

4/29/2019	<p>I whole-heartedly support the Commission’s mandate to increase participation in national, public and military service. I urge you to make equity a key priority in considering policy options and developing Return-on-Investment calculations to support greater investment in service-related activities. Make sure that low-income youth and adults, who, as stated, have the potential to gain a lot from participating in service experiences, have access to and can afford to participate in well-structured service activities. Well-structured service activities involve the performance of meaningful work and the supervision needed to help participants develop competencies that enhance their civic engagement and employability. (see badge recommendation below). Too often quality considerations are over-shadowed by other imperatives to scale programs quickly. Also, it is essential that service programs provide adequate stipends/pay and supports to enable low-income individuals to participate.</p> <p>Unfortunately, despite the well-articulated positive benefits individuals, communities and the Nation that can be achieved through service, it’s unlikely that a major new service initiative is going to be enacted any time soon given our current political climate. Therefore, in addition to any bold new strategies you may decide to recommend, I urge you to consider recommending the following incremental strategies:</p> <p>Advocate for increased funding for existing volunteer programs to address demand. For example, given its current funding levels, Peace Corps can only accept 3-4000 applicants a year, a small fraction of the 20,000 plus people who apply each year.</p> <p>Create nationally-branded badges that volunteers can earn through participation in service activities. Badges are a relatively new form of portable credential that uses digital technologies to provide verifiable evidence of learning achievements in a wide variety of settings. Badges can be used to signify achievements such as a completion of a service experience and mastery of competencies gained through such an experience. Digital badges can be shared on online sites, such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter, or embedded in résumés, personal websites, or email signatures.</p> <p>Digital badges are not unlike badges awarded by the US military to personnel, who achieve special skill qualifications and accomplishments while serving on active and reserve duty. Other examples include Microsoft’s partnership with Credly’s Acclaim platform to award badges for achievement of industry certifications and badges developed jointly by LRNG, an innovative education organization that promotes community-based learning, and the Service Year Alliance. Another example is the work of District of Learning, LRNG’s Washington D.C.-based non-profit youth program. District of Learning partners with a wide range of community organizations and employers to provide teens and young adults with curated on-line and in-person learning opportunities and the ability to earn digital badges that help these young people progress on their path to college and careers. A series of badges developed in conjunction with the Department of Employment Services and leading non-profit organizations in the District focus on community engagement, volunteer resource management, creating budgets, fundraising, and measuring results. In addition to these skills, badges also recognize job attendance, mentorship, teamwork, and effective communication skills.</p> <p>Creating service-related badges would entail working with diverse service organizations and employers to define the competencies that should underly these badges and developing criteria for how and by whom these competencies will be assessed. Domestic and international service</p>
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programs could be encouraged to adopt the competencies represented by various badges as the volunteer learning outcomes for their programs.

Work with employers across industries to create demand-side incentives such as considering service experiences and competency-based badges earned in their hiring and promotion practices. These incentives signal the value of engaging in service activities in people’s career development. But demand-side incentives without provisions to assure equitable access to service opportunities can lead to greater inequity. Mobilize “graduates” of existing service programs such as Peace Corps and AmeriCorps to encourage them to lead and participate in service activities in their communities and throughout the world. Organizations such as the National Peace Corps Association and its many state, local and issue-related affiliates are natural partners.

Expand the capacity of existing service efforts/networks through technical assistance, discretionary funding and other activities such as the badge initiative proposed above.

Evelyn Ganzglass, RPCV Somalia 1966-68

4/29/2019

Dear friends,

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

You ask, does the draft increase the desire of any young American to serve our country in the military. The answer is no. It only makes young people angry at the government for trying to coerce them into an action they do not select for themselves. To increase participation in military service, there must be strong rewards offered to those people, and not methods that try to change their behavior by force.

You also 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. If you want to encourage national service, this is not the way to do it.

Thank you.

Cushman D. Anthony

Yarmouth, Maine



4/29/2019	<p>I write in support of maintaining the Center for National and Community Service. The current "transformation" plan is a thinly veiled attempt to discredit and destroy the programs under the auspices of CNCS such as Americorps, programs for seniors and more.</p> <p>The opportunities to serve communities is a wonderful opportunity for volunteerism in our society. When we are at a time when it is clear our national ethic is becoming to do what is best for self rather than teaching about helping and humility; we are losing our way as a nation.</p> <p>Programs that CNCS is meant to serve help fulfill community needs as well as provide essential learnings about reaching out to others. The programs like Americorps provide pathways to graduates as they graduate from the school world to the work world. They provide an avenue to earn money, pay off college loans in addition to providing needed help in various communities.</p> <p>The "transformation" plan for CNCS should be halted. Any program can withstand scrutiny to improve and we need to let that happen. CNCS has received strong bipartisan support for over 40 years for a reason. Let's keep the program.</p> <p>Diane Paul</p>
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4/29/2019	<p>Reasons why the Selective Service System is long overdue on being Abolished</p> <p>The Selective Service System is a government funded organization tasked with registering males ages 18 through 25 for potential conscription into the armed forces or other areas of labor under the Alternative Service Program. The following are a comprehensive collection of arguments why the Selective Service System is unconstitutional, unfair, unneeded, and long overdue on being abolished.</p> <p>Legal Reasons why the Selective Service System should be abolished.</p> <p>The 13th Amendment states the following:</p> <p>“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”</p> <p>The Selective Service System is in direct violation of the 13th Amendment by enforcing involuntary military servitude onto males in the draftable age range. Under current law, it would be illegal for one to force another to do any job against their will, as that would qualify as involuntary servitude, slavery. Yet despite this the military can force men in the draftable age to do a job that could result in the end of their lives, and it is falsely deemed patriotic and harshly enforced. Drafted males who are sent to war will experience irreversible mental effects, proven by the shell-shocked draftees of World War 1 and the PTSD stricken draftees who made it home from the Vietnam War. In addition, the Selective Service can also force men into positions that could seriously injure them into disability, reducing their post-war quality of life. It is unfair that people in the ‘Land of the Free’ can be forced into such positions that could permanently alter their lives for the worse.</p> <p>Under current legislation the Selective Service gives the Federal Government the ability to enslave any male in the draftable age range into any job it sees fit, even outside of the military. The Alternative Service Program, if used, would force all conscientious objectors into various work programs for a set period of time, such as agricultural jobs. It is interesting to point out that this isn't the first time that agricultural jobs have been in violation of the 13th Amendment. After its passage, work was quickly done in the South to ensure it wasn't enforced, enabling de facto slavery to continue for several years. By having agricultural jobs among other things be forced upon men by the Alternative Service Program under the Selective Service, it continues the historical failures of ensuring men their 13th Amendment rights to be free of involuntary servitude.</p> <p>It's a simple matter of conflict. An amendment forbidding involuntary servitude cannot coexist with a system that forces males into involuntary military servitude, and at the end of the day the 13th Amendment can't be removed, as it is central to the freedoms of this nation. So that only leaves one choice, to fully enforce the 13th Amendment, and forever end military slavery in the United States.</p> <p>The 14th Amendment states the following:</p> <p>“All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State</p>
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wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The Selective Service System currently requires men ages 18 to 25 to register for the military draft. Should the draft be resumed, it would require the registered men, and only the registered men, to report for conscription. If they are in college, they will be pulled from their schooling at the end of the current semester. As previously mentioned, the Selective Service is in violation of the 13th Amendment by being an organized system of forced military labor, and that violation abridges the privileges of the citizens who were drafted, making it in violation of this amendment as well. It not only infringes on the privileges and immunities of male US citizens, such as receiving complete post-secondary education, but it deprives them of their liberty by forcing them into a fight they want no part of (as they would have signed up themselves if they did), and in many unfortunate cases, the Selective Service even deprives them of their lives should they die while ‘serving’ their time. Perhaps the quotation marks were unnecessary, draftees are serving their country, just against their will, fighting to protect rights they themselves aren't guaranteed.

As mentioned above, such a draft would only apply to men ages 18 to 25, and only to men ages 18 to 25. By only applying to men between these ages it is also in conflict with the portion of the excerpt highlighted in orange stating that no state shall deny any person equal protection under the law. By applying the only males ages 18 to 25, this means that during a draft the aforementioned age group will unfairly bear the burden, as well as unfairly placing the burden on males by having the Selective Service System apply to them. This unfairness is even present in our country today, as if a male fails to register for the Selective Service System they will lose eligibility for federal student aid, federal job training, a federal job, and in many states they won't even be allowed to vote or obtain a driver's license. To add insult to the injury, they could even face a \$250,000 fine and up to five years in prison, and if the male is an immigrant hoping to become a citizen and fails to register, they will be forbidden from naturalizing. If a male does not register for the selective service they could receive all of the previously mentioned punishments, which could ruin their chances at going to college, getting their dream job, or even being able to vote, but if a female does not register, nothing happens, as they are not required to. Females get all of the benefits of registering, without having to give up their 13th Amendment rights. This uneven enforcement is unfair on every male in the United States, and is in violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

It is simple, an amendment stating that the law will equally and evenly apply to all citizens of the United States cannot coexist with a system that only targets a select few, and harshly punishes any objectors.

Patriotic/Political Reasons why the Selective Service System should be abolished.  
It Undermines the Government's Purpose

The Selective Service System sent 17,725 draftees to their deaths in Vietnam. All 17,725 of them did not sign up to be sent to Vietnam, they

were forcibly sent there under threat of harsh legal punishment. The United States has always called itself a 'Land of the Free', yet it takes the freedom away from its citizens whenever it deems it necessary and forces them into the horrors of war. It is the Federal Government's duty to the citizens of the United States to protect their constitutional rights, meaning the Selective Service cannot continue to exist if that duty is to be fulfilled.

#### It Creates Resentment for the Government

It is no surprise that the large increase in government distrust that occurred after Vietnam War was in response to so many men being forcefully ripped from their families because the Selective Service said so. By abolishing the Selective Service, trust and faith in the Federal Government could grow again, and spurt a nationwide feelings of national pride. With more support from its citizens, both political parties could reasonably expect more participation in government from the public.

#### Conscription in the United States has Always Been Unpopular

There isn't much to say here, the controversy of the draft now has led to the The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service to seek public input on the Selective Service to determine what to recommend to the President, Congress, and American public in March of 2020. This controversy is by no means old, with one notable example from the United States' past usage of conscription from earlier in the country's history, the New York City Draft Riots.

After a conscription law was passed to register men for forced service in the Civil War, large groups of protesters lynched and murdered other residents, destroyed businesses, and even burned down an orphanage in Manhattan. By the time the riots had been suppressed by a declaration of martial law and 4,000 troops, nearly 1,200 people had died.

While most situations never escalated to levels this extreme, situations like the Kent State and Jackson State shootings, where the police and national guard fired upon and killed anti-war protesters, show that the sharp tension over the use of conscription for any war is never going to end as long as the threat of conscription still exists within the United State.

Conscription always has been unpopular, and will remain unpopular, but there is one way to permanently ease the tensions that choke this country, abolishing the Selective Service. With such an unpopular system gone, many more would have a positive outlook on their lives, without fear of their lives being cut short by an order of induction.

#### It Wastes Money

The Selective Service currently has an estimated annual budget of around \$26.4 million. Many claim that another draft may never happen, and

if that is the case, why not use the millions upon millions the Selective Service wastes each year to help strengthen other parts of the United States? The money could be used to help the impoverished, to fund NASA, or be invested in renewable energy. The list of alternatives goes on, but in the end the Selective Service System currently does nothing that would justify any budget, much less one so large.

#### The US Military Does Not Need Conscription or a Draft

The United States spends more on its military than the next seven countries combined, it has more firepower, more weapons, more aircraft carriers, than any potential opponents. Using draftees in a time of war would only slow the military down and drastically reduce its support and efficiency. Since the military is so large, the Selective Service should be abolished, because conscription is unlikely to be needed again and is a waste of money that the military could be utilizing elsewhere.

#### Conclusions and Final Statements

In short, a system like the Selective Service has no place in a land of the free like the United States. It violates numerous amendments, wastes money, decreases public support for the war effort, and often is accompanied by violence, protests, and loss, not to mention all the draftees who were forced to throw their lives away, normal Americans, who won't get to see their families again.

America has had a dark and troubled history, it was built on land taken from the continent's original inhabitants, it was a hotspot for chattel slavery up until 1865, it dropped two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but despite all of that pain and injustice, America always found a way to get past it and correct its course. Now America has arrived at its next true test, deciding whether or not to abolish the tyrannical Selective Service once and for all. If America can learn from its past and embrace its founding value of liberty, it will make the right choice. The test is here, and all America has to do now is wait, and hope that The National Commission makes the right decision.

4/29/2019	<p>Reasons why the Selective Service System is long overdue on being Abolished</p> <p>The Selective Service System is a government funded organization tasked with registering males ages 18 through 25 for potential conscription into the armed forces or other areas of labor under the Alternative Service Program. The following are a comprehensive collection of arguments why the Selective Service System is unconstitutional, unfair, unneeded, and long overdue on being abolished.</p> <p>Legal Reasons why the Selective Service System should be abolished.</p> <p>The 13th Amendment states the following:</p> <p>“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”</p> <p>The Selective Service System is in direct violation of the 13th Amendment by enforcing involuntary military servitude onto males in the draftable age range. Under current law, it would be illegal for one to force another to do any job against their will, as that would qualify as involuntary servitude, slavery. Yet despite this the military can force men in the draftable age to do a job that could result in the end of their lives, and it is falsely deemed patriotic and harshly enforced. Drafted males who are sent to war will experience irreversible mental effects, proven by the shell-shocked draftees of World War 1 and the PTSD stricken draftees who made it home from the Vietnam War. In addition, the Selective Service can also force men into positions that could seriously injure them into disability, reducing their post-war quality of life. It is unfair that people in the ‘Land of the Free’ can be forced into such positions that could permanently alter their lives for the worse.</p> <p>Under current legislation the Selective Service gives the Federal Government the ability to enslave any male in the draftable age range into any job it sees fit, even outside of the military. The Alternative Service Program, if used, would force all conscientious objectors into various work programs for a set period of time, such as agricultural jobs. It is interesting to point out that this isn’t the first time that agricultural jobs have been in violation of the 13th Amendment. After its passage, work was quickly done in the South to ensure it wasn’t enforced, enabling de facto slavery to continue for several years. By having agricultural jobs among other things be forced upon men by the Alternative Service Program under the Selective Service, it continues the historical failures of ensuring men their 13th Amendment rights to be free of involuntary servitude.</p> <p>It’s a simple matter of confliction. An amendment forbidding involuntary servitude cannot coexist with a system that forces males into involuntary military servitude, and at the end of the day the 13th Amendment can’t be removed, as it is central to the freedoms of this nations. So that only leaves one choice, to fully enforce the 13th Amendment, and forever end military slavery in the United States.</p> <p>The 14th Amendment states the following:</p> <p>“All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State</p>
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wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The Selective Service System currently requires men ages 18 to 25 to register for the military draft. Should the draft be resumed, it would require the registered men, and only the registered men, to report for conscription. If they are in college, they will be pulled from their schooling at the end of the current semester. As previously mentioned, the Selective Service is in violation of the 13th Amendment by being an organized system of forced military labor, and that violation abridges the privileges of the citizens who were drafted, making it in violation of this amendment as well. It not only infringes on the privileges and immunities of male US citizens, such as receiving complete post-secondary education, but it deprives them of their liberty by forcing them into a fight they want no part of (as they would have signed up themselves if they did), and in many unfortunate cases, the Selective Service even deprives them of their lives should they die while ‘serving’ their time. Perhaps the quotation marks were unnecessary, draftees are serving their country, just against their will, fighting to protect rights they themselves aren’t guaranteed.

As mentioned above, such a draft would only apply to men ages 18 to 25, and only to men ages 18 to 25. By only applying to men between these ages it is also in conflict with the portion of the excerpt highlighted in orange stating that no state shall deny any person equal protection under the law. By applying the only males ages 18 to 25, this means that during a draft the aforementioned age group will unfairly bear the burden, as well as unfairly placing the burden on males by having the Selective Service System apply to them. This unfairness is even present in our country today, as if a male fails to register for the Selective Service System they will lose eligibility for federal student aid, federal job training, a federal job, and in many states they won’t even be allowed to vote or obtain a driver’s license. To add insult to the injury, they could even face a \$250,000 fine and up to five years in prison, and if the male is an immigrant hoping to become a citizen and fails to register, they will be forbidden from naturalizing. If a male does not register for the selective service they could receive all of the previously mentioned punishments, which could ruin their chances at going to college, getting their dream job, or even being able to vote, but if a female does not register, nothing happens, as they are not required to. Females get all of the benefits of registering, without having to give up their 13th Amendment rights. This uneven enforcement is unfair on every male in the United States, and is in violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

It is simple, an amendment stating that the law will equally and evenly apply to all citizens of the United States cannot coexist with a system that only targets a select few, and harshly punishes any objectors.

Patriotic/Political Reasons why the Selective Service System should be abolished.  
It Undermines the Government’s Purpose

The Selective Service System sent 17,725 draftees to their deaths in Vietnam. All 17,725 of them did not sign up to be sent to Vietnam, they

were forcibly sent there under threat of harsh legal punishment. The United States has always called itself a 'Land of the Free', yet it takes the freedom away from its citizens whenever it deems it necessary and forces them into the horrors of war. It is the Federal Government's duty to the citizens of the United States to protect their constitutional rights, meaning the Selective Service cannot continue to exist if that duty is to be fulfilled.

#### It Creates Resentment for the Government

It is no surprise that the large increase in government distrust that occurred after Vietnam War was in response to so many men being forcefully ripped from their families because the Selective Service said so. By abolishing the Selective Service, trust and faith in the Federal Government could grow again, and spurt a nationwide feelings of national pride. With more support from its citizens, both political parties could reasonably expect more participation in government from the public.

#### Conscription in the United States has Always Been Unpopular

There isn't much to say here, the controversy of the draft now has led to the The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service to seek public input on the Selective Service to determine what to recommend to the President, Congress, and American public in March of 2020. This controversy is by no means old, with one notable example from the United States' past usage of conscription from earlier in the country's history, the New York City Draft Riots.

After a conscription law was passed to register men for forced service in the Civil War, large groups of protesters lynched and murdered other residents, destroyed businesses, and even burned down an orphanage in Manhattan. By the time the riots had been suppressed by a declaration of martial law and 4,000 troops, nearly 1,200 people had died.

While most situations never escalated to levels this extreme, situations like the Kent State and Jackson State shootings, where the police and national guard fired upon and killed anti-war protesters, show that the sharp tension over the use of conscription for any war is never going to end as long as the threat of conscription still exists within the United State.

Conscription always has been unpopular, and will remain unpopular, but there is one way to permanently ease the tensions that choke this country, abolishing the Selective Service. With such an unpopular system gone, many more would have a positive outlook on their lives, without fear of their lives being cut short by an order of induction.

#### It Wastes Money

The Selective Service currently has an estimated annual budget of around \$26.4 million. Many claim that another draft may never happen, and

if that is the case, why not use the millions upon millions the Selective Service wastes each year to help strengthen other parts of the United States? The money could be used to help the impoverished, to fund NASA, or be invested in renewable energy. The list of alternatives goes on, but in the end the Selective Service System currently does nothing that would justify any budget, much less one so large.

#### The US Military Does Not Need Conscription or a Draft

The United States spends more on its military than the next seven countries combined, it has more firepower, more weapons, more aircraft carriers, than any potential opponents. Using draftees in a time of war would only slow the military down and drastically reduce its support and efficiency. Since the military is so large, the Selective Service should be abolished, because conscription is unlikely to be needed again and is a waste of money that the military could be utilizing elsewhere.

#### Conclusions and Final Statements

In short, a system like the Selective Service has no place in a land of the free like the United States. It violates numerous amendments, wastes money, decreases public support for the war effort, and often is accompanied by violence, protests, and loss, not to mention all the draftees who were forced to throw their lives away, normal Americans, who won't get to see their families again.

America has had a dark and troubled history, it was built on land taken from the continent's original inhabitants, it was a hotspot for chattel slavery up until 1865, it dropped two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but despite all of that pain and injustice, America always found a way to get past it and correct its course. Now America has arrived at its next true test, deciding whether or not to abolish the tyrannical Selective Service once and for all. If America can learn from its past and embrace its founding value of liberty, it will make the right choice. The test is here, and all America has to do now is wait, and hope that The National Commission makes the right decision.

Also in case you peeps need more emotion for making your decision, thanks to the Selective Service I developed OCD over being unable to have total control over my own body and my own future, and now because of it my life is miserable. If you have any compassion whatsoever for the well being of this country's citizens, you will recommend its abolishment.

<p>4/29/2019</p>	<p>To whom it might concern,</p> <p>I am listening the hearing of today, April 25t 2019. I am listening lady who is reading a statement about equality of sexes to justify the draft of women. I was wondering how this can be so complicated if men could never get pregnant or be sold as sex slave? Where is the freedom when something is mandatory?</p> <p>You need to consider that women, in the Bible standpoint, have certain roles in the society. If this is a Nation under God, then should align to the Bible and faith.</p> <p>Women should serve if it is volunteered. Otherwise we could not say that we live in a democracy but under a dictatorship.</p> <p>Best!,</p> <p>Maria Cervantes</p>
<p>4/29/2019</p>	<p>The draft is a flawed system to start. It should be removed, stopped, and stripped from those who have signed into it. Only wars not supported by the people would even need the draft.</p> <p>Our world has changed and grand conflicts aren't a method of war that may ever return to us. Weapons are too big now and we see what the horrors of war can do to our servicemen. We should approach the future not as trying to fight, but to end it.</p> <p>Wars are not won with men on the ground anymore, they are won in the political sphere. Remove the draft and entrust that as we move forward never again will unwilling men be sent to their deaths in a cause they didn't agree to.</p> <p>We are to be the land of the free, and we can show this by removing such a system that takes the freedom from our own citizens.</p> <p>Serving the country does have a value to many people and I respect all who choose to do so. Yet it is their choice and just the same I will respect anyone who chooses not to. To take the freedom of choice from anyone is to stand against what our country is founded to be, a land of freedom for all.</p>

4/29/2019	<p>As a Veteran and current Selective Service Local Board Member I write in support of continuing the Select Service. The reasons are self evident. The volunteer service framework has worked well in peace time. However, as we learned in previous wars, lack of preparation and planning can be an incentive to potential enemies.</p> <p>Registration engages young people to make them aware of their civic responsibilities. This is important for generations who believe they are automatically entitled to the freedoms others have fought to win and preserve.</p> <p>I strongly encourage keeping the Selective Service, working behind the scenes preparing for a time we all hope never comes, another all out war.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Dan Holloway</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
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4/29/2019	<p>Dear Chairman Heck, Vice chairs Wada and Gearan, and Commissioners,</p> <p>My name is Dr. Hoonjoo Lee, one of 11,000 volunteers working for the Selective Service System (SSS). I am proud of my fellow volunteers serving our country through the SSS and wholeheartedly support the agency and the current Director, Hon. Donald Benton.</p> <p>I shared my thoughts about Selective Service at the end of the hearings today, April 24th. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to express how much I care about our country as an SSS board member. That said, I would like to summarize my public comments and provide to you for your record.</p> <p>1. Having Selective Service is definitely necessary and will be. Having Selective Service may be similar to having an insurance for our nation. We buy an insurance not to gain a high-percentage return on investment but for an emergency. Having an insurance costs you, but it is necessary to protect what you have in case something goes wrong. Considering today's geopolitical issues, something can go wrong, very wrong, although we all want that to never happen. Therefore, having and strengthening Selective Service is definitely necessary.</p> <p>2. We need modernized policy for Selective Service. Ladies and gentlemen, we are in the era of Industry 4.0. Our national security and military superiority rely on Science and Technology (S&amp;T) as well as the war-fighters' capability. Critical and emerging technologies in the battle field requires high brain-power. The current Selective Service policy seems to be a little bit old-fashioned for this generation. In addition, when it's about brain power, women are equally powerful as men are. Let us utilize one of our strengths, intellectual diversity.</p> <p>3. The agency needs more resources to innovate the system. Again, an insurance costs you. As a volunteer, I know that the SSS needs more support and resources to innovate the system which will address the issues that have been raised in the hearings today, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Effective communication with citizens</li> <li>(2) Advanced registration</li> <li>(3) Better preparedness against adversaries with cutting-edge S&amp;T</li> </ul> <p>The Department of Defense focuses on innovation that will enable the US military capability and mobility become faster, better and cheaper. Why not Selective Service? We can make that happen through the agency!</p> <p>Thank you again. If you happen to have any questions or need further discussions, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I will be glad to answer to your questions and share more thoughts around Selective System as one of SSS volunteers.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p>
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	<p>Hoonjoo Lee, Ph.D.</p>
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4/29/2019	<p>If on our money it says, "In God We Trust," then our national faith should be in God, not our military might. We should provide more opportunities for nonviolent service opportunities, such as Brethren Disaster Ministries, Mennonite Disaster Services, Habitat for Humanity, Americorps, and Teach for America.</p> <p>Tom Brown  ██████████  Lafayette, IM. ██████████  ██████████</p>
4/29/2019	<p>I'd like to suggest that the commission consider the random awarding of full or partial scholarships to accredited colleges and trade schools for individuals who register with the Selective Service System in a timely manner following their eighteenth birthday. Notice to the public could be accomplished with minimal cost by sending a bulk class mailer to guidance counselors and educators or any other appropriate target audience that the commission feels could effectively and efficiently convey the message to the public at large.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>John Newbery  Region II, OFF 005, Board 16  Little Rock, Arkansas  --  John B. Newbery</p>
4/29/2019	<p>Good morning</p> <p>As a board member and a citizen of the great United States of America I am please that we continue to keep a list ready for a draft if needed and have the nonpartisan citizen board in place to process the conscientious objectors applications. I believe that these are both necessary to the present and future protection of our great land.</p> <p>I think a more valid question is should the draft be extended to include females. In this age of equal right and equal opportunity. Many of the past generational arguments against females being part of the military are not true today; as they have shown they are every bit as capable as their male counterparts. I recommend that the board keep the selective service board intact for the future is America. Given the size of the federal budget today the few thousand dollars spent on this would not even change the national budget. It's like pennies in the ocean or more like money in the bank for peace of mind.</p> <p>Respectfully  Dale Williamson concerned citizen  Sent from my iPhone</p>

4/29/2019	<p>My ancestors understood the true meaning of patriotism and service and they died that our families may be safe.</p> <p>I signed up for Selective Service.</p> <p>I served my state and my community as a career law enforcement officer.</p> <p>If my country becomes so addle headed to consider drafting women, I swear I will shoot the first government official that comes to my door for my daughter.</p> <p>This is the stupidest most immoral consideration I have ever heard of!</p> <p><b>NO DRAFT FOR WOMEN!</b></p> <p>If they want to volunteer, fine. <b>BUT NO WAY SHOULD WE DEMAND SERVICE!</b></p> <p>Parker Freshwater</p>
4/29/2019	<p>I have been on a local board for about ten years. I volunteered in order to assure myself that conscientious objectors would get fair treatment and have been convinced that that is the case. Our board training is quite good.</p> <p>As far as the future of the draft is concerned I echo the National Interreligious Board (AKA Center on Conscience and War) stated aim supporting freedom of conscience and the right to be free of coerced participation in militarism and war.</p> <p>If we keep the draft, we should provide a way at registration to declare one's support for non-military service based on our existing guidelines for conscientious objection.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bruce Ryan</p>

4/29/2019	<p>Dear Chairman Heck:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>www.pepperlaw.com</p>
4/29/2019	Public service starts at the local level. There should be ways constituents help at the local, to help spread civic duty
4/29/2019	<p>The Every Child Succeeds Act formerly No Child Left Behind requires high schools to release students directory information to military, college and job recruiters. Panelist James Stewart states that the SSS generates 80,000 leads. Indeed my own experience confirms this, my child before he registered got a confirmation card of his registration that included an attached Marine Corps recruitment advertisement. We had opted out, as per the ESCA/NCLB, of having our cons director information released to recruiters. As soon as he registered, that opt out right was nullified. The SSS violates people's privacy and their autonomy. The draft lottery is not random it is dependent on this list.</p>
4/29/2019	If this panel recommends to completely stop all Americans from registering and our nation does need more people to join the military then volunteer, would you recommend on the way to conscript people?
4/29/2019	<p>Three of us flew out from California. I am the parent of 2 draft age children and I was draft age when the SSS was reinstated 40 years ago. I am troubled by the comments at today's morning panel, that the SSS has been used to generate 80,000 leads! Youth should not have to provide their information for marketing by military recruiters. High Schools are required to release student directory information but families can opt out. SSS makes that opt out moot. Private information should not be available &amp; dispersed w/o individual's permission. Glad to hear that the NCMNPS is considering eliminating the SSS and appreciate the testimony of former SSS Director Bernie Rostker. So why does the US Government want to compile a list of every citizen? -Exercise power and intimidate over the community, - militarize schools: ASVAB testing, high school semester, JROTC, ESCA/NCLB law, ROTC, - Monitor people's movements and track. I am troubled by this govts sanctioned invasion of privacy SSS targets vulnerable populations: uniformed, young, trans, immigrants, legal residents. I am troubled that more people will feel</p>

	threatened and so not access support systems such as healthcare, disaster aid & immigrant support. Finally - the draft may be done through random process but the SSS is not random particularly punitive and does not promote a positive climate.
4/29/2019	Why was it so important to me and the teens to fly out from California to testify about why the SSS should be abolished? Because the SSS is a national emergency - the further militarization of our society by continuing to force youth identified male at birth and possibly expand that coercion to youth identified female at birth. It troubles me deeply that this commission is worried about some imagined national emergency when there already exists a national crisis of poverty, lack of health care, etc. Instead of looking for 'skill sets' and 'readiness' let's start fresh, eliminate the SSS, repurpose the SSS funds to support AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, higher education prenatal care. Women's equality will not be achieved through compulsory draft registration.
4/29/2019	In 3 years I will be forced to sign up for the SSS or sent to jail. I have been told what to do my entire life. Now a counsel of adults gets to decide how I serve my country? Am I not allowed to serve my country through nonviolent means? Those who are draft age must be able to choose how they serve. I have no desire to kill people as a job or be trained to.
4/29/2019	Looking around the room, my brother and I are the only people here who will be affected by the decision about Selective Service. Director Benton made the point that registering for the SSS is a marker of adulthood, something young men are excited about as a way to serve their country. It should not be a marker of adulthood. That can be done by voting, graduating high school, going to college. Being forced to give up your private information to military recruiters and being forced to give up your freedom should there be a draft should not be a marker of adulthood. Registering for the SSS is not done by choice. People don't consider it their "civic duty" it's something you have to do or else you could be denied financial aid, face a fine of \$250,000, or go to jail. We do not deserve to be pay or be locked up if we choose not to be involved with the military.
4/29/2019	The Bipartisan Policy Center, Blue Star Families, et al wrote a study suggesting the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) be administered to all high school students to evaluate skills.
4/29/2019	I believe SSS is a very important component of our national defense. It should be 100% supported especially in light of decreasing young age population & uncertainty of the world wide tomorrow. KV Kumar, Chairman National Indian American Chamber of Commerce
4/29/2019	On the way here, we passed a cemetery full of white rectangular tombstones. I looked for the name. There was a sign on the fence that said "US Government Property." Is that what our youth are, living or dead, US Government Property? There are many military people on this commission and amongst the panelists. What is the mindset of the military, how does this institution see the citizens of this nation and the rest of the world? What recommendation will you give Congress? Continue to see youth, highly trained professional, people identified as female at birth, as commodities--U.S Government Property? Or as citizen humans with the inalienable right to the pursuit of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

4/29/2019	<p>In regard to your investigation on the military draft I would like to add my opinion that that draft should be abolished. It is unnecessary. And individuals should not be punished for not registering for selective service.</p> <p>War is morally wrong and individuals of conscience who object to militarism and ware should not be required to register for the draft or participate in the selective service in any way. Additionally, if the draft is continued, individuals should not be punished for not registering for selective service.</p> <p>Thank you, Tim LaBorie</p>
4/29/2019	It's important to our country into ourselves to serve
4/29/2019	I think the draft should come back only because if American citizens choose not to go to college then they will have a successful chance of career path in the Military.
4/29/2019	<p>As a member of the SSS board for 19 years now, I feel the importance of the group is vital to the future, if needed, for the possible need of a Draft Board. The current thinking of this generation does not seem to include the safety and security of our country, so much is taken for granted.</p> <p>We should not leave things to "chance", but MUST continue with security of this nation. The younger generation must learn and realize that they will be the ones keeping us free from other control or give up our freedom to live the "American Dream". The Selective Service System must continue.</p>
4/29/2019	<p>It is an honor for me to serve on the board. I feel it is my duty . I served in the United States Marine Corps for four years during Vietnam Nam. The training each year is a refresher course, and, I find this most helpful. I don't think I need any further communication. I just pray we never have to meet as a board in time of war, but , if need be, I am ready.</p>
4/29/2019	<p>The military draft will always be necessary. To strictly rely on volunteers is short sighted.</p> <p>We, as a country must always be prepared to defend our nation.</p> <p>Without a backup plan our enemies will view us as defenseless, soft and unwilling to protect our core values.</p> <p>Maintain the Selective Service System</p>
4/29/2019	<p>I am a member of the Indiana Selective Service Board. I have studied to learn the rules. I expect if a draft is needed it will be needed quickly. Thus keeping the Selective Service and the registration active will have the infrastruccion ready to be ready for a conflict.</p>

4/29/2019	<p>Selective Service Hearing: Future Mobilization Needs of the Nation</p> <p>Good afternoon. I am writing in support of the Selective Service System. As an American who has lived through Viet Nam (and beyond), I have seen first hand the impact of both the Selective Service process as well as armed services comprised of volunteers. The selective service system has inherent value in that it allows for a defined and fair process for deferment which has as its oversight, members of the immediate community. While we know that such a system may be abused or manipulated, failure to have any process at all would pose a far greater problem.</p> <p>A substantial limitation of the system now is that it does not include women registrants. Congress should act to correct this deficiency. The military draft or draft contingency is absolutely essential to our national security and I cannot envision a time in which it should be abandoned.</p> <p>Without the registration requirement, many young adults might never consider military service as an opportunity for additional education, personal growth, or professional career. While voluntary military service offers a number of benefits not available to civilians, more could be done to incentivize additional participation. In particular, the recruitment of college-bound individuals with the potential to attain professional certifications (medicine, nursing, law) should be re-examined and campaigns designed to make information about these opportunities available to this population. For example, I can speak from personal experience that I have been grateful a million times over that my orthopaedic surgeon served 20 years in the military before he fixed my leg which was broken in 6 places.</p> <p>I would go so far as to mandate a service requirement for all Americans, regardless of classification. That would be so much more fair than selective service registration alone and truly empower both young people as well as our national defense in a way that would never be possible otherwise.</p> <p>I hope this is helpful to you.</p>
4/29/2019	<p>As a veteran of the US Army I understand the value of a standing army and a pool of eligible men and women. As Winston Churchill once said "walk softly and carry a big stick". If we don't have a pool of military inductees where is our stick? The defense of our country is the primary reason our country broke from the UK. The selective service commission is very necessary. John P. Mc Sweeney</p>

4/29/2019	<p>As a Board Member, I am proud to say that I am not only a Veteran (US Navy) but also that I serve on the local Selective Service Chapter. My son is the 4th generation of military service, for our country and unfortunately our of 25 nieces/nephews he is the only one serving his country. The other 24 individuals seem to lack the sense of patriotism, personal duty, nor do they see any personal benefit - in serving our country.</p> <p>Just like voting, many of them do not take the time to vote, even in the national elections, let alone on the local level. One of the major barriers in serving in the military appears to be in the general perspective that: pay and retirement pension are low (teachers in Illinois get up to 75% of their pay for 30 yrs of service), and overall benefits are low for military individuals and former veterans.</p> <p>My own son has indicated he can double/triple his pay - if he elected to work in the civilian field of his training. TO improve the desire for individuals to serve in the military ---address, "what is in it for them" type of attitude: enhance overall benefits, improved pay, improve awareness and better recruitment standards----consider improved benefits for those serving 10+, 20+ and 30+ years of service, while still maintaining the same physical and mental attributes. Lower medical costs should be available to Veterans, discounts should be nationwide (taxes, purchases, mortgage rates, insurance plans, public transportation, long term health care -privatized).</p> <p>Military or community type of service should be mandatory for all welfare citizens and immigrants (legal or not)...Why are illegal aliens, felons, immigrants treated better than our own Veterans?</p> <p>Just visit the emergency rooms in the hospitals - illegal immigrants, welfare individuals get care without proper documentation -- while citizens - veterans, wait in line.</p> <p>Thank you, Gerald P Crews</p>
4/30/2019	<p>I contend that signing up for selective service should be univwrsal for girls as well as boys at age 18. As this form of declaring alligence to our nation is used by colleges and financial institutions to judge the citizenship of young men, it would also serve for young ladies. A sort of reaching the age of service to our nation. If the day comes when it is necessary to draft soldiers again, there is no reason the ladies shouldn't be called to duty as well. The women's movement which is very present in the USA today, should also support this idea, as they seek equality for women.</p> <p>Forrest McCoy Reg. 3, State AZ Area off 005 Board Member [REDACTED]</p>

4/30/2019	<p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By offering a variety of service opportunities, not just military service, the country can better attract the service of young Americans.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The lack of knowledge about non-military service and how to apply for those opportunities is a huge impediment. For example, the Peace Corps, or the Foreign Service are little known divisions of the federal government that offer great opportunity.</p> <p>4. How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation? Again, recruitment with knowledge is key. Job fairs, and school counselors need to be aware of the opportunities available. Also, the government needs to hire people, the trend of contract employment to government agencies is diminishing the desire of people to serve the country. The workers need federal jobs, with federal benefits, and federal wages.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? No.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It is not necessary, but there is value to mandatory service. It can be feasible if there are many options and choices to non-military service. Military service cannot be mandatory.</p>
4/30/2019	I recommend making your website more appealing. I appreciate your cause but clicking on "Take Action" leads you to nowhere. To entice the younger generation you have to have a working website!
4/30/2019	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I have served as a Volunteer for Selective Service for a few years, and have some concerns over the abilities of those who wish to question their draft status. The Selective Service has always been for the people of this nation in a time of need, it is the chance for our citizens to seek a rating that may place them in civil service. Or even maybe in some other status that would even better serve our military?</p> <p>I would like to note, that I believe the present Selective Service System does need a serious update and communication improvements within the many volunteers throughout our country. With today's electronics I would recommend improving the abilities of each local branch with some form of electronics, cellphone, laptops, or other communication devices. We need to do our job in a faster and more professional manner, being able to take and to read notes on laptops. Would make communicating to our Review Boards much more efficient, and accurate.</p> <p>I also would recommend that somehow a rehearsal is done with the top part of Selective Service, because I wonder if we are truly prepared and ready. The military is finally receiving the support it badly needs, now please update and modernize the Selective Service Branch for your volunteers.</p> <p>Thank You.</p>
4/30/2019	Ask not what this country can do for you, but what can you do for this country. Great phrase from JFK. This country has given and gives so much for and to its citizens, that it is not too much to ask for citizens to give at least two years of some type of service for their country. I think there should be a mandatory service requirement for all Americans.

4/30/2019	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am a high school student who recently competed in and attended the 2019 We the People, the Citizen and the Constituion national finals in Washington, D.C. and had the privilege of hearing Mr. Tom Kilgannon speak at the awards ceremony. Service has an inherent value in the functioning of a thriving democracy, yet this service should come from the willingness of a citizen to partake in said action, not in cohesion. An anonymous writer suggests that one "do things with passion, or not at all." Mandating participation in the national selective service program negates the concept that those serving in the armed forces participate to change the world, and instead infringes upon the citizen's natural right to freedom of conscience not to serve, as championed by Benjamin Franklin. We want those who risk their lives to defend freedom to do so willingly.</p> <p>Civic virtue is key as Cicero stated that "the good of the people is the highest of laws," yet for the good of the world, funds and time should be spent on strengthening organizations such as the Peace Corps, who through education can spread the ideals of liberty to those around the world who are ruled over by tyrannical governments, therefore prompting these people to take power into their own hands, as a contrast to the U.S. using military force. This sentiment is best expressed by signer of the Declaration of Independence Benjamin Rush, who stated that "where education is limited, liberty can neither be equal nor universal." We must expand education to ensure fundamental liberties are guaranteed to all global citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, We the People Participant</p>
4/30/2019	<p>I think we all need to register even us older people. I ask you to look at history. The countries or governed units that had mercenary armies - which is really what our armed services kind of looks like today - can rise up &amp; become a take over a country by force army, This has happened in older days. Better for us all to serve in some best ability/capacity, Better for all of us to be in a state of true readiness to defend our country. I think we all should be trained. I think one of history's points is- you cannot let someone else defend you, lest you yourself be taken over. This point should be stated publicly. It should be pointed out that other countries require such of their citizens - such as the good points the Swedish General made. We, the American people, should know how to go to readiness if we have too, Right now - my opinion is that we - as a nation- don't know how to do that. Defense needs to be a national &amp; local level ability. Basic training - arms, protection (self &amp; others), first aid, how to survive, where to muster, everyone having an emergency radio &amp; supplies, water purification, etc. should not be a mystery. This is even evident in emergencies such as hurricanes &amp; fires. We need training &amp; it couldn't hurt if the media had daily education on such.</p>
4/30/2019	<p>I am currently witnessing the struggle of consequences for a person who unknowingly failed to sign up the selective service but has been a civil servant for the past 6 years. My boyfriend was a passionate and loyal National Park Service employee who recently found out he was not registered for the selective service. Mandatory service and therefore punishment for not signing up is excluding a huge sector of the population who are passionate about government jobs. I believe that to have your career stripped away from you for not signing up is a failure of the system. This person has not only worked for the government but completed a 6 month Americorps stint. How is THAT not considered a valuable service to our country? How can someone complete a public service, but be denied government employment in which they are ultimately continually contributing to this nation? The restrictions for financial aid and government work must be changed.</p>