



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 or 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 posted comments received from the public on its website at regular intervals. This document covers all public comments received during the month of December.

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.

On January 1, 2020, the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service formally concluded its public comment process. All public comments submitted to the Commission can be found here: https://www.inspire2serve.gov/ncos-documents?field_document_type_target_id=6&field_location_target_id=All&field_topic_target_id=All&searchvalue=.

Date	Text of Response
12/1/19	<p>Change Selective Service to Universal National Service and make it mandatory.</p> <p>Universal National Service is an exciting solution to many of our present woes. It must, however include and emphasize societal well-being to the same degree as military service. Universal Service in communities, the nation, or overseas should include the fields of: health (including senior services); education (including early childhood education, new citizen integration); emergencies (due to weather, conflict); environmental restoration (restoring ecosystems, cleaning up toxic dumps; clean and sustainable agriculture; universal access to basic needs such as clean water, air, clean energy. These emphases apply both within this country abroad. We must also assure that international services address internal and external refugee problems. and conflicts due to changes in the climate.</p> <p>I also suggest that the Selective Service be renamed (it has bad connotations), and that there be a shift in the focus of some existing services, Americorps needs some improvement, but the concept is good. The Peace Corps is virtually unknown by youth, as is Teacher Corps, both of which are excellent programs. Other programs could include training doctors, health workers, pollution abatement engineers, . An Eco-Corps would be well received by many, as would a Health Corps. New programs similar to the CCC and Roosevelt's WPA, which trained artists and craftsmen, can provide lasting benefits to the country, as did those programs.</p> <p>thank you. Susan Morse, Monterey CA</p>
12/1/19	<p>Change Selective Service to Universal National Service and make it mandatory.</p> <p>Universal National Service is an exciting solution to many of our present woes. It must, however include and emphasize societal well-being to the same degree as military service. Universal Service in communities, the nation, or overseas should include the fields of: health (including senior services); education (including early childhood education, new citizen integration); emergencies (due to weather, conflict); environmental restoration (restoring ecosystems, cleaning up toxic dumps; clean and sustainable agriculture; universal access to basic needs such as clean water, air, clean energy. These emphases apply both within this country abroad. We must also assure that international services address internal and external refugee problems. and conflicts due to changes in the climate.</p> <p>I also suggest that the Selective Service be renamed (it has bad connotations), and that there be a shift in the focus of some existing services, Americorps needs some improvement, but the concept is good. The Peace Corps is virtually unknown by youth, as is Teacher Corps, both of which are excellent programs. Other programs could include training doctors, health workers, pollution abatement engineers, . An Eco-Corps would be well received by many, as would a Health Corps. New programs similar to the CCC and Roosevelt's WPA, which trained artists and craftsmen, can provide lasting benefits to the country, as did those programs.</p> <p>thank you. Susan Morse, Monterey CA</p>
12/1/19	<p>I was drafted out of graduate school and allowed to finish my first semester toward an MA in economics before reporting for duty in February 1969. My social sciences degree program did not exempt me from the draft, unlike those seeking medical, science, or engineering degrees. Also being single was not an out; at first, married men were exempt and later only those with children. The arbitrariness of the draft was frustrating. When I reported for duty at a</p>

	<p>railroad station, one quarter of the draftees was pulled out to become Marines and those left were sent into the Army. The uncertainty of what I would do was unsettling. I didn't find out I was headed to MP school until about the 6th week of basic training. If we ever decide to have a draft again, both men and women should be conscripted with a fairer set of criteria. Connections or family wealth should not be factors that exclude those from being drafted. Alternative civilian national service should also be an option. Perhaps mandatory military or civilian public service would help bridge the gap between society and those who serve.</p>
12/1/19	<p>Currently under the SSA (Selective Service Act), all males between the ages of 18-25 must register with the Selective Service. The SSA should be changed/amended to require both males and females between the ages of 18-25 to register with the Selective Service.</p> <p>In the past the main argument against requiring females to register with the Selective Service was the SSA provided for the drafting of males to perform in combat, and, females were precluded from combat. This has never been a valid argument. Including WWII to the last male who was drafted, the vast majority of those drafted, although they may have served in a combat theater, did not perform a combat roll. In addition, in recent years the roll of females in the military has expanded to include not only service in combat theaters, but, an expanded roll in direct combat. The DOD has lifted the ban on females serving in combat.</p> <p>The opportunity and honor to serve in the defense of our country also comes with the responsibility to serve when the need arises. That responsibility should be shouldered equally by both males and females.</p> <p>Note: I have previously raised the above issue with my Congressional representative, and, with as many of both Congressional Armed Services Committees members as I could contact. The response from elected representative was uniformly noncommittal. Others have raised this issue and there have been media news articles concerning this issue. Unfortunately the media reported this as a plan to immediately begin drafting women instead of reporting just a change to require females to register. Of course such reporting led to the end of any consideration of this issue and provided elected representatives cover to end any discussion. If the above change is placed under consideration, be sure the representation of the issue is correctly reported in the media and correctly presented to elected representatives.</p>
12/1/19	<p>The Nam '68 and '69 I don't know if this is the right website. I saw this note in my V V A Veteran Magazine labeled "Were You Drafted". I don't see anything about Vietnam Vets being drafted here. Just a bunch of would be soldiers .. Yes I was drafted, sent to the Nam, and is the best thing that ever happened to me! I'd say more but this appears to be a bogus website.</p>
12/1/19	<p>National service should be required of all youth , including women.</p>
12/1/19	<p>My name is Bryce Larson, I am 71 years old a Viet Nam veteran and a member of the VVA and VFW. I was a student at UW Madison when the first draft lottery was held in late 1969. I was number 60 or 61 and I received my draft notice in November of 1970. I served in the US Army from December 2, 1970 until roughly April 6, 1972. I spent from July to the end of March in Viet Nam in Toy Hoa and Pleiku. I was a 35k20 which is an avionics repair person and rotated from time to time as a door gunner when needed. All most all of those missions were not direct combat</p>

	<p>however. I signed away some of my military benefits due to the fact I served a few days less than 18 months. As a draftee I was a member of a unit that was initiating standing down and draftees that were not planning to stay in the service or re-enlist with less then 250 days to serve as of March 31, 1972 were granted early discharges. I had been asked on several occasions to re-enlist or go to OCS but I wanted to get back to the states and finish my double major and start my civilian career.</p> <p>What are my thoughts about being drafted? Well being drafted and serving right after Kent State was not a way to gain popularity for sure. There were protesters coming and going from Nam and those upon return as well. I also found out as time went on that it was not just young hippie type protesters that were issues for us. There were VFW posts and members that were not supportive as well and that bothered me more than the protests.</p> <p>I believe that the USA should have a draft of sorts for all able bodied men and women to serve their nation for 2-3 years. There are many options or ways to serve and those that want longer military careers can choose those options. I know with the newer technology that training is a major issue in today's military but then I believe a nation such as ours can figure that out. I would believe we would benefit much more greatly politically, socially and economically to use the vast resources of our youth to serve our country and a rapidly interconnected world. We spend billions providing assistance of many types. To me it would make good sense to provide training, discipline, work ethic and community by involving our youth in national and community based activities. I also believe this would help in breaking down or deeply entrenched divides in this nation. People are living much longer and working much longer today than 50 years ago and I feel a couple years doing service work would be a great investment for our nation and a real cultural benefit for each youth and all of us. Yes there will be politics in this as well. There is politics in everything we do so why not invest in political discussion that may be a very good initiative for us as a county. We are only going to become more and more diverse, lets find ways to harness that energy instead of continuing to find ways to limit or demean it?</p>
12/1/19	<p>If there is to be a "draft", then all must be called to serve... The only deferments would be for a felony criminal record.</p> <p>Unfit for combat ? (ie: "bone spurs") there are plenty of clerk positions, desk jobs, etc, that won't require standing for long periods.</p> <p>In MY opinion, placing people from across the country into a basic training unit, will BEGIN to show new service members there are good, and bad in other groups.</p> <p>When the recruits graduate basic train, and are assigned tech training, or advanced training, they will encounter a new group of differing people, and again learn to appreciate the mosaic of the community as a whole, Followed by permanent duty station, with still differing social-economic population.</p>
12/1/19	<p>Institute mandatory universal service; either military or public service.</p>
12/1/19	<p>By your #s:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inherent value: It turned me from boy to man (Vietnam service). So maturity was key. 2. How to increase desire to serve: Better post-service benefits (e.g. college, trade school, retirement, etc.). Fewer international military "adventures" with presidents' children not serving. 3. Barriers: Lousy benefits, no requirement to serve, endless wars. 4. Increase participation of those with critical skills: Pay commensurate with the contribution.

	<p>5. Draft necessity: Yes</p> <p>6. Draft modifications: ALL serve, including (especially?) politicians' children.</p> <p>7. Mandatory service: 2 years minimum. Perhaps shorter requirement if military service, longer if civic service. That could induce more into the military, if met with greater benefits.</p>
12/1/19	<p>Drafted 24 Oct 1966, Whitehall Street, NYC, NY. Was married 2 Oct 66, received a stay of induction and reported 3 weeks later, PROUDLY. If I was single, I very well may have volunteered (for the draft [serve active for 2 years]). Was sent to RVN late and ETS'd from there. Was Mos a draftsman (civ occ), was then placed 11E in I/66 Armor (Gunner), then unit dismantled and sent to Nam as 'Draftsman' ???!!??? Served in 1968 (Tet), proudly, as Mail Clerk, Courier w/ Danang Sig Bn. All should serve and draft should NEVER have been abolished. How insulting, the lottery where the LOSER was called to serve...what happened to honor? For the answer we turn to the US Gov't! I believe in EVERY AMERICAN male serving mandatorially-- hence the draft, but hard (impossible?) to reinstitute now after generation upon generation were taught the free ride is their RIGHT. I am proud to be a soldier, a veteran and a VietNam Vet (a cause I still believe in). I am proud of my country (and not necessarily its Govt). I therefore have very positive feelings regarding the draft alongside those who volunteer. In my days it was US/RA prefixing our serial numbers. In VietNam it was impossible to distinguish the difference!</p>
12/1/19	<p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>The simple answer is YES. I was drafted in 1968 along with several of my friends. I was not opposed to entering the military service, but found it convenient to wait until I was directed to change my easy lifestyle. In that time period almost all young males had a potential to have some skin in the game. Today too few young people have volunteered to carry the burden. Most, like my younger self, find it more convenient to avoid the hard choice of military service. Today's repetitive battle tours may contribute to the increased incidents of PTSD and suicide.</p> <p>I believe that military service increases the value of patriotism in an individual. This is a trait in much lower supply in today's youth.</p> <p>Perhaps all young Americans should be required to register for selective service now that females are allowed to participate in the combat arms positions. Then the draft should be used when recruitments do not meet the needs. This will level the playing field like it was back in 1968. It will also guarantee a readily available supply of potential military personnel should the need arise. Some believe that future wars will not need many military people, but this has not been proven true to my satisfaction. I believe that a large number will be required when the worst is over.</p> <p>Gerald Killigre</p>
12/2/19	<p>I was drafted at age 19, in January of 1966, into the United States Marine Corps. It was a great shock to me at the time. I knew I was going to be drafted, but not into the USMC. I was one of three people selected from a group of well over a hundred who took the oath at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa. I learned about my induction at around 10:00 AM and was on a plane to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego by mid-afternoon. In boot camp, I enlisted for another year in the USMC because we were told all of us were going to Vietnam and I wanted to have something to say about my MOS in combat. I eventually served a 13-month tour as an Amphibian Tractor crewman and crew chief. Much later I learned that I had been exposed to Agent Orange and now have a partial disability due to ischemic heart disease. Because I survived Vietnam in relatively good shape the military experience proved to be one of the best of my life.</p> <p>I personally believe that the United States should have a mandatory public service requirement for all 18-20-year-old people of both genders and all</p>

	<p>orientations. Military service being one option. There are many other areas of service that young adults could choose. The reason, beyond serving the public good, is that as a professor at a major university for 28 years I learned that most young people have no real idea of what they wish to do with their lives at that age and could mature from a term of public service. I learned much about myself in my 3 years as a Marine. As a result, I became a much better person than before I was drafted. Consequently, I believe that both youth and America can benefit greatly from a mandatory two-year public service commitment.</p> <p>Steven D. Rittenmeyer, J.D., MS Ed. Attorney at Law/Professor Emeritus, Western Illinois University ██████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████</p>
12/2/19	<p>The act of doing for the nation service should be a requirement for all. When you have a draft for military or volunteer service it brings people more into what the nations goals must entail. If everyone had "skin" in the game a robust discussion would take place concerning the national goals. This would also give a pool of people to achieve those stated goals!! RUSSELL HAYWARD ██████████</p>
12/2/19	<p>Yes, I believe the selective service should institute a modified draft system. The system should state that every physically, mentally competent individual be selected to serve in a branch of their choice for a period of 4 to 6 months of modified basic / advanced training so that in the event of a major national emergency these troops could be called upon to serve on active duty with minimal retraining effort.</p>
12/2/19	<p>1 - If service has inherent value, people will pay for it. If people don't value it, then it doesn't have value.</p> <p>2 - The US generally tries to pay people for service - for example, our "volunteer" military, contrary to the name, is really a "professional" military, where people exchange their service for payment.</p> <p>3 - Those all have different barriers. The biggest barrier to military service is the fact that the US is in multiple, on-going, seemingly-never-ending wars that threaten the lives of those who serve. Most people don't like dying for their job. The biggest barrier to national service is the continual denigration of government employment by certain elected officials, who seek to sow mistrust of government employees for partisan political purposes. The biggest barrier to public non-governmental public service is the pay, where people who can do the jobs well face a choice of being paid fairly for their services and working for a for-profit employer or being undervalued and working for a non-profit.</p> <p>4 - The same way any business can widen its employment pool - increase pay. When you pay people more, you get more people competing for positions. If you want skilled people, you have to pay them a fair market wage.</p> <p>5 - Not in the slightest. The draft was implemented before we had a professional military. Now that we have one, the cheapest and most effective way of quickly ramping up our war machine is to increase pay/bonuses for people in the military.</p>

	<p>6 - Yes, if you consider "elimination" a modification.</p> <p>7 - Not at all. If the services themselves are valuable, then pay for them and show that they're valued. If the act of serving is valuable, then increase pay for people who serve. Making it mandatory for everybody brings up a *lot* of questions about what "service" is, who can perform it, how unskilled it needs to be, how ADA compliant it could be, etc. If the service is needed, pay for it. If you're unwilling to pay for it, you don't value it. If you don't value it, don't require it.</p>
12/2/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has inherent value, but mostly importantly, it has monetary value. Some view service as a means of serving their country, and that is the inherent value. Also, continuing a family legacy can be qualified as such. 2. A sign-up bonus and more forthrightness about the military being a job and not a "calling" would be helpful. 3. Physical limitations, views on nonviolence, and a lack of education are all barriers. 4. Being a competitive employer is how the U.S. can increase participation in these services. Higher wages, more benefits, etc. 5. The draft is wholly unnecessary. We aren't Israel. 6. The selective service system should be done away with. 7. See number 6.
12/2/19	<p>I want to serve my country in the Navy or in a medical capacity. But I can't serve as an out genderfluid individual, which is unfortunate because the military will be a great option if I lose the ability to pay for college. Please let trans and non-binary individuals serve as their actual genders.</p>
12/2/19	<p>Mandatory service violates individual rights. No one should be forced to work in a particular job against their will.</p> <p>Moreover, compulsory national service has economic costs that are understated by fiscal estimates. In a system of voluntary service, those who choose to serve will be those who find service more valuable than alternative employment, education, or volunteering opportunities. Introducing compulsion takes people away from opportunities they prefer, including opportunities where they create more value for society (which is often reflected in the wage that others are willing to pay them). By forcibly moving people from roles in which they create more value for others to roles in which they create less value for others, compulsory national service destroys wealth and social value. Since wealth is necessary in order to continue developing innovations that allow us to secure our nation, the national security benefits of a draft are likely to be overstated. If officials wish to recruit more, they should increase pay to soldiers rather than forcibly conscripting individuals. This will insure that those who join the armed forces are those who prefer it to their available alternatives, rather than those who would earn more and create substantially more social value elsewhere.</p> <p>Proponents of national service sometimes argue that it is worth these costs, because it promotes community and national solidarity. But national service can also create backlash, undermine the communities that would form voluntarily, and breed resentment among those forced to serve. The beauty of community is that it forms through bottom-up and consensual human interaction. Attempting to create compulsory communities corrupts the very concept and takes away from the types of social relations that sustain human flourishing.</p> <p>In summary, compulsory national service is a grave wrong. It is wrong on moral grounds, as it entails forced labor and the violation of fundamental rights. It is</p>

	<p>wrong on pragmatic grounds, as it destroys wealth and undermines the bottom-up formation of community and solidarity. It is wrong on national security grounds, because security can be provided at lower cost by other means.</p>
12/3/19	<p>Author: Paul L. Williams - https://books.google.com/books/about/Killing_the_Planet.html?id=u6qexQEACAAJ&source=kp_book_description</p> <p>Los Angeles County (California, USA), 88 cities & 20 + year's = vast dead & killed fellow homeless human's. And check out: https://www.elanafreeland.com.</p> <p>Globalist's, misc aren't really doing what they plan on, their really just passing the time, evil - senselessly, & their talk of reducing 7 billion plus down to 500 million, huh, OH don't think it'll stop there, oh no, just so Satan who solely started this Holy War against God, can eventually 'spite' God with eventually exhibited all human eventually narrowed down & killed, like Satan's timeless laughing off it's ass at us (having put on a clueless humor show for that beast) & deeming to God, "LOOK AT THEM ALL, YOUR SO-CALLED PRIDE & JOY, THEIR SUPPOSE TO REPRESENT YOU?!"</p> <p>Huh, TRY THIS on for size per / via you're brain = global extermination by 2025, & whom TOP Power deem that 9-1-1 was JUST a TEST to see just how the global masses would react & respond. https://soundcloud.com/groundzeromedia/pulling-the-shameless-plug-w-deborah-tavares-july-24-2019</p> <p>Deborah Tavares, (she lives in Sonoma County - Northern California), & is a activist with a research team – Email: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Her website: http://www.stopthecrime.net, YOU local – global humanity NEED to SERIOUS listen to, because ceasing of humanity is Coming, please & SHARE it! Or you can hear it here > https://soundcloud.com/groundzeromedia/the-genocide-agreement-w-deborah-tavares-february-8-2018</p>
12/3/19	<p>Huh two thing's: a) THEY of whether globalist's, etc or TOP - down globally deem cluelessly that > 1) Statan started this nevertheless 70 century - to date Holy War against God, 2) Adam FIRST, NOT Eve, sinned & then Eve of course but old men long ago changing writing's would have any & all believe otherwise, & SO . . . what then? Satan wins? YEAH, NOT! THINK AGAIN!</p> <p>And THEN, there's this > THEY of globalist's, etc TOP - down, globally are gonna take out ALL humanity IN, whether clueless or on purpose, accordance WITH this Holy War that Satan solely started against God 70 centuries ago, (voluntary & NON-voluntary suicide / murder, just so Satan can apparently SPITE God that & with, "LOOK AT THEM ALL, THEIR ALL GONE, YOUR SUPPOSE TO HAVE BEEN PRIDE & JOY . . ."</p> <p>And plus there's then the > THEIR really not doing - all that they have done & do - do for really no reason, THEIR really just doing it to pass the tick tock 'time' . . .</p> <p>And worth noting, when Satan got defeated in the desert amidst Jesus's testing, Satan just deemed, "Fine, I'll just go after Jesus's next best thing, HIS Little One's (children / kid's) THROUGH the adult's.</p> <p>God gave us all each - embedded within all we'd ever need to self denyingly Holy Warrior rise up & represent Holy Trinity, as we were created to solely do so & THAT of care take of each & Earth, NOTHING off, EVER! THIS PLANET, Earth! It's like One who goes after dessert before eating the main meal or like human</p>

	<p>evil weed's overtaking the garden that is all else . . . PONDER THAT!</p> <p>Globalist's, misc aren't really doing what they plan on, their really just passing the time, evil - senselessly, & their talk of reducing 7 billion plus down to 500 million, huh, OH don't think it'll stop there, oh no, just so Satan who solely started this Holy War against God, can eventually 'spite' God with eventually exhibited all human eventually narrowed down & killed, like Satan's timeless laughing off it's ass at us (having put on a clueless humor show for that beast) & deeming to God, "LOOK AT THEM ALL, YOUR SO-CALLED PRIDE & JOY, THEIR SUPPOSE TO REPRESENT YOU?!"</p> <p>Huh, LISTEN . . . to our fellow human Brother, just another Son of Adam & Eve, Steven Frederic Seagal's word's very carefully & TAKE IT TO HEART! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz2NeCowTwU.</p> <p>YOU DAM WELL BETTER PONDER CHAVEZ'S WORD'S & EXHIBITED - VISUAL EMOTION'S!</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX1ha-hADIU</p> <p>AND THAT of: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Suu84khNGY</p>
12/3/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service is good, and it should be aimed at solving problems for communities and the nation. 2-3. Americorps looks like a good approach. People can't always afford to volunteer significant time, so the living stipends are necessary. Funds to help public schools have the staff and time to promote service opportunities for students could help teach the value of that. 5. If this country is ever in extreme peril, we can consider whether a draft is justifiable then. It is not justifiable in any other circumstances. The likelihood of that peril is extremely low, and our foreign policy should focus on keeping it that way. 6. On draft registration, in this era of gender equality, it should be either equalized or abolished. I prefer abolished. In any case, even if we do not want to force women into combat, they could still be expected to contribute some role through a draft if men are. 7. Mandatory service undermines the concept of voluntary giving. It does not create the right motive. Service should be given freely, which is more meaningful, much like a gift. It can still be encouraged.
12/3/19	<p>In my opinion, the military draft is immoral and conflicts with the ideals of a free society. While some people think the draft should be extended to include women, I believe the draft should be abolished altogether. Let people serve, or not serve, in the ways they choose.</p>
12/3/19	<p>Discrimination in the United States has seemingly been entirely eliminated with one exception...age limits for military service. Please eliminate this discriminatory practice once and for all, and I'm sure you'll be one step closer to achieving your goal of national service and unity.</p>
12/3/19	<p>While I value military service, I think it is unwise and a danger to the institution of the family to require military service from all individuals or to include women in the draft without clear and broad options to be excluded. For families with young children, the option should remain for mothers or single parents to be exempt. For religious people who value traditional family roles, it would be seen as an infringement on religious freedom.</p> <p>A big deterrent to voluntary military service is that the trauma of war is not supported well enough, nor is the pay adequate. Additionally, there have been women who have shared their experience with sexism in the military, not having gear designed for women's bodies, and doctors who refused to properly</p>

	<p>diagnose injuries and just dismissing them as "lady problems." Women would need to feel that it is a safe cultural environment.</p> <p>Finally, to make such a sacrifice to serve in the military, there has to be a trust in our government institutions and that the leaders have Americans interests at heart. As a former Republican, now independent, I have grave concerns about the current commander-in-chief and that he is putting personal protection ahead of wise national security and military action. I would not want me or my loved ones to be put in a situation where they would be asked to do something immoral on behalf of a corrupt man.</p>
12/3/19	<p>elimate cream for sale</p>
12/3/19	<p>I support a compulsory 2 year service term upon completion of High School. Military service builds character, teaches valuable lessons (both personal and professional) and instills a true sense of what is meant by "the greater good". We are turning into a society of entitled children, demanding "freedom and democracy" with little to no understanding of what actually goes into having those things. Neither of those are free, nor are they an entitlement; we all must work towards these ends.</p>
12/4/19	<p>In re: the draft and draft registration</p> <p>Soon Congress will have to decide whether to end the draft or extend it to women. I believe that we do not need draft registration at all. Our military should be staffed by people who freely choose this path. If not enough volunteers are available, then more diplomacy would be required in order to avoid large-scale conflicts that have tended in the past to escalate. We do not need more and more expensive and wasteful military operations in other parts of the world. Compulsory draft registration should be ended; the sanctions currently imposed on non-registrants should be reduced. Any national service should be open to all genders and should be voluntary.</p>
12/4/19	<p>Thank you for inviting public comment on this subject.</p> <p>We live in the greatest country on earth. We are truly free people, and it takes action to keep it that way. It may be uncomfortable and inconvenient, but we must each take personal action.</p> <p>When called upon, our volunteer military does an outstanding job. And our reserve troops answer that same call when additional human resources are needed.</p> <p>But when there is a true crisis, everyone must play a role. We must protect and defend our Country at all costs. The 3rd component of that defense is conscription through the draft.</p> <p>One only has to look back to WWII to see the importance of the draft. If the reason is critical to our Nations defense, draftees will gladly step up.</p> <p>One additional thought: Conscription does not necessarily mean into the Combat Arms. In time of crisis, we need many, many support personnel to accomplish the mission. This would include both men and women; "yes" women should also register. It also means, we cannot allow for deferments of any kind other than "physical or mental inability" to carry out orders of their superiors.</p> <p>In summary, registering through the Selective Service is a unique step we can take to be ready for any emergency.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time and consideration; Jim Brindowski Former draftee into the US Army, and Proud citizen of The United States of America</p>
12/5/19	<p>Majority of the people do not know what selective services is and gets punished for a mistake that they did not commit later in the years when they find out and they cant do anything about it. Most people would have happily served if they had known what the registration was for. Registering to serve should be made a voluntary process, there are enough patriotic citizens who will fight for their country and not everyone is made for the service. The fact that the country is fully meeting its military needs through volunteer program itself shows that selective service is not required and is wasting tax payers money and discriminating citizens from making their lives better through education and other means which also develops the country as a whole.</p>
12/6/19	<p>I believe that the draft should not exist in a modern day America. People who become drafted are fighting not for their own beliefs, but instead because they are blindly giving an objective. They are not there on their own will. The draft also is a form of involuntary servitude, which violates the thirteenth amendment.</p>
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12/6/19	<p>There is no place for forced government service of any kind in a free country. Period. Abolish this aberration. Liberty and conscription cannot coexist.</p>
12/6/19	<p>End selective service registration. It is an makes a mockery of the liberty of individual in our country where such liberty is enshrined in the US Constitution.</p>
12/6/19	<p>Abolish the Selective Service System!</p>
12/6/19	<p>A draft is improper in a free country. Also our voluntary military is far more effective than a conscripted one. Please end the Selective Service System. P.S. Mandatory service = slavery. Don't do it.</p>
12/6/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? It is evil. It is slavery.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Offer enough pay to make it worthwhile. That is the only way that is not slavery.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? There should be none other than the budget.</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? Pay for their value.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO!</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? REMOVE IT!</p>

	Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? IT IS EVIL, ONLY EVIL.
12/6/19	I believe that both the concepts of draft and required service are wholly inconsistent with the core precepts of freedom, the foundation upon which our great nation was built, and any such requirement should be discontinued now. God bless America. Michael Buhler, Lynchburg, VA
12/6/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes but no under a forced condition. Draft registration by the any government agency should be stop. 2. Kids coming out of high school are looking for options. Provide one for service which would include an element for high education. Entice over conscription. 3. The military has addressed much of this. In 1970 when I faced the draft, men were viewed as GI's or government issued and valued less than the boots we were given. 4. using the same method as corporate America uses; offer them something of value. 5. Absolutely not. 6. there is no reason for this to continue. 7. Mandatory - no. Voluntary service could be a avenue toward further maturity for young adults. Again entice them with something of value. This also applies to seniors. Start a program where their Social Security can be enhanced with further service.
12/6/19	End the draft. It's unconstitutional and unAmerican.
12/6/19	I was not drafted but sentence by a judge in a court of law 1969
12/6/19	No, a draft or selective service prpgram where the service is anything but completely voluntary is not acceptable. It is a form of slavery which does not become legal simply because it is done by a government. Pay our volunteer military a proper wage and end all aspects of the mistake that was conscription.
12/7/19	<p>I was drafted on 10/10/65, age 20 & married for two months. As the military began to build up, the rules for exemptions changed for non-college men. If you were married before 10/28/65, you were considered married by the draft. Married after that date you were 1A.</p> <p>Service has an important value to society as a whole. The Army experience broke down racial and social barriers since you lived and worked together as a unit. It broke down the me first ethos; replacing it with what was needed for the unit as a whole. We learned that we were all alike in both weaknesses and strengths. For some, it was the first time that they had to deal with someone of a different race. Many of us had grown up in segregated neighborhoods, classrooms & religions.</p> <p>I'm not sure of an easy way to increase the desire to serve but I have observed that many people look for a way out of the path that seems to have been chosen for them by where they live or by their family. Once a mandatory service requirement is enacted it might become like the old draft; both dreaded and looked on as the big step into adulthood. Offers of paid education only apply to a select group but the opportunity to learn a skill or apply what they have learned in college would be a positive incentive.</p> <p>The barriers to serving are many if it is looked at strictly in a military sense. Given that the subject is national service the physical and mental requirements aren't any different than any job or occupation would ask of a person. Every citizen would be able to earn the status of helping America by investing their time and effort in the common good.</p> <p>Requiring national service would solve the problem of critical skills needed. There would be no exemptions. Even after four or six years of advanced education, the requirement would still be there. An employer would not want to hire someone that still had a national service requirement.</p> <p>The draft should be a vital contingency for our nation's security. As it stands now the average American family has no skin in the game so it's too easy to</p>

	<p>ignore the cost of going to war. We ask no sacrifice of the individual by taking part or even levying a war tax. People would and should feel the real cost of going to war. Our political leaders would have to stand before the people and justify why their sons and daughters were going to war. It is too easy to send volunteers off to die and pay lip service with Thank You for Your Service.</p> <p>The selective service system was so broken during Vietnam that its model has to be completely thrown out. National service would cover everyone; even those with disabilities would have the opportunity to be of service to their country. Exemptions would never be a given & only granted by a panel unaware of a person's name.</p> <p>Americans need national service to bring us closer together as a nation. Coastal people would meet & work with fly over people. We would learn that we are more alike than we are different.</p> <p>B. May</p>
12/7/19	<p>The whole notion of forced servitude on behalf of the government, whether military or some other forced servitude, is both immoral and unconstitutional. It is of the sort of thing that belongs in totalitarian countries, such as Hitler's Germany or Stalin's USSR, not in a country founded on the idea of human rights. Therefore, the draft and registration for it need to be abolished. If there is value in serving the government, it resides in that government EARNING that service, given in a truly voluntary manner. Any sort of draft is tacit admission that the government has failed to earn any service to it. As it is true in any human interaction, the use of force is the very last and the least desirable of all means of obtaining anything, and it should be used only in immediate need against an attack, and then upon the attacker and nobody else.</p>
12/7/19	<p>Whatever is your recommendation for the military draft, I don't think our still somewhat free country should have a forced universal national service.</p> <p>Dave White</p> <p>██████████</p> <p>██████████</p>
12/7/19	<p>My name is Daniel Goodman. I graduated from high school in 1965 and began college in the fall that same year. During college I met and fell in love with the woman I would later marry. I graduated from St Bonaventure University, June of 69. Julie and I were married in July. In August I received notice that my educational deferment had ended and I was ordered to report to Pittsburgh for a physical. I went with a friend who was in the same situation. On the return trip to our draft board home in Oil City, PA my friend said that he was told he was too heavy and had to lose weight before he could be drafted. I don't know for sure but my best guess is that he ignored that request.</p> <p>At this time, 1969, many felt that being drafted and probably being sent to Vietnam was a almost sure death sentence. I can recall being in a large group of young men at the exam site in Pittsburgh, parading around naked to the various doctor stations where we were poked and prodded and then going into a class room where we filled out some forms about our mental health and so forth. I passed.</p> <p>I believe it was early September when I received notice to report for induction. Friends and acquaintances had been scrambling to join what they considered to be safer alternatives to being drafted into the Army, i.e. Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, reserves, National guard and some were fleeing to Canada. I had heard that all of these options were over crowded and unavailable and even if you did get in the commitment was for several years. My wife and I decided that I would face the draft and hope for the best, Canada was never an option. I considered that a cowardly choice.</p>

I was ordered to report back to Pittsburgh in September for induction but due to some snafu in the paper work it was postponed until October 14, 1969. On that day my dad took me to the court house in Oil City, my wife had returned to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania to finish her final year of college. I was officially sworn into the United States Army later that day in Pittsburgh. What followed was basic and advanced training at Fort Jackson, SC and then orders to Vietnam in the spring of 1970. I was eventually assigned to the 5th Special Forces Camp and did my Vietnam service there in Kontum, VN. I was fortunate to survive my term of service and received orders back home in the spring of 1971. Within a month I was released from active duty since I would have only had five plus months left on my draft term. I did not escape Vietnam completely unscathed. In 2018 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and received a 100% disability from the VA. Of course this is ongoing and how long I will survive God only knows.

I am a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. I am proud of my service and do not regret anything. I was certainly no hero in any way, just one of many, many who answered the call and served to the best of their ability. I do not feel qualified to respond to the above questions, but this is my story

To whom this may concern,

I am writing as a Christian and a member of the Mennonite Church since age 14 (I am now 47). I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your commission and have several things I would wish for the commission to consider.

To define my concerns as a Mennonite quite succinctly-it surrounds some very fundamental principles that are rooted in the interpretation of the New Testament of the Bible.... some of which have been embraced by general society until the very recent past, some of which is not shared by a very large populace by are held very dear in the hearts of our constituency.

Concern 1 - From what I know (from the perspective of a person who values peace to the point of following the scriptural mandate of Jesus of loving even our enemies) about the selective service and it's role, I would like to see this (the selective service) maintained in the future. From my perspective, it is very helpful to have a "non-military" commission of this nature to select personnel rather than the military itself. I feel a more objective consideration can be taken when considering the request of a person who cannot serve in the military because of conscience. (Matthew 5:43-48)

Concern 2 - I also have concern regarding the current consideration of mandatory female registration/participation. There is without question a distinct difference in the roles of men and women. The first few chapters of the book of Genesis states that God created us male and female (Gen 1:27), with female later being referred to by the apostle Peter (I Peter 3:7) as the "weaker vessel", which in essence would indicate that the physical stamina (among other things) is not that of the male. A long exposition on this subject is beyond the scope of this writing. I simply wish to state that until the very recent past, society in general has accepted this obvious difference between men and women and hence the wise decision (to this point of time anyway) not to require service from women. I would wish to see this continue.

Concern 3 - Whatever the outcome of this commission, I would humbly request that people of faith who carry a deep conviction that serving in the military violates their conscience could be granted the privilege to serve the government in ways in which they could conscientiously serve. Currently I serve on a board that provides opportunity for our young men of service age to serve the country in "non-military" ways. We are actively executing pilot projects currently, so that in the event of a military draft, the "machinery" is in place to provide this opportunity to those young men. Again, I would request your

12/7/19

	<p>consideration for such an exemption to a conscientious objector. If in the event women should be required to serve, I would request that they be granted the privilege of serving in capacities that are more suited to the female rather than roles that are very "male".</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Dwight Burkholder</p>
12/7/19	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? YES.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? YES</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? YES</p> <p>From a US Air Force Vietnam War Veteran 1967-1968</p>
12/8/19	<p>I'm a long-time pacifist, and thus opposed to American wars and wars in general. So in general, I'd prefer any alternatives likely to reduce the incidence of wars.</p> <p>That said, though, I'm in favor, perhaps surprisingly, of having a draft army rather than a "volunteer" one, and of having any draft bear equally on men and women. And I'd also be in favor of a universal service requirement as long as that requirement allowed those opposed in conscience to doing military service to do service of another kind.</p> <p>As for how the United States can increase the desire for Americans to serve - well, it'd have to to greater honor to those who've actually served, whether in military capacities or in other ones, than at present it's doing. I have in mind the stories I've read of how badly veterans are treated, and the thoroughly repellent things being said about Americans who've served their country in various ways by senior members of the present administration.</p>
12/8/19	6. The Selective Service should be modified to require females to register at age 18, just as males are required to register
12/9/19	I was drafted in January 1971 . The death of
12/9/19	I was drafted in January of 1971. The death of innocent Vietnamese women and children haunt me every day of my life. I lived my whole life without a wife without children. The only Vietnamese that wanted us there were the ones we were paying. It was absolute murder on a grand scale I will suffer from this till the day I die. There were no rich guys being drafted just the children of the poor. If you are going to make men go half way around the world to kill kids, at least make everybody go.
12/9/19	I love your idea of including and recognizing the importance of civics education in building an engaged population ready to serve their broader common good. Really anything that can be done to help give a stronger sense of civics, civic participation, and what it means to live in a multi-ethnic and multi-faith democracy would be important. Young people especially but people of all ages really need a better understanding of what makes a democracy, and how various aspects of a democracy impact their life and the functioning of that democracy. Rule of Law, freedom of the press, innocent until proven guilty.... I'd also strongly suggest a component of Media Literacy Education - helping people to understand how to differentiate truth from the myriad of falsehoods/propaganda and other misinformation now found online. It would be great to hold civic forums at the local, state or national level where people

	with varied backgrounds and points of view can have thoughtful engaged civil dialogues and see the humanity in one another, including across partisan and political lines. Perhaps that may help encourage thoughtful civic participation in other realms of life.
12/9/19	A military draft puts people who don't want to be in the military on the line with those who do. It is unfair to both. I would not want my life depending on someone who just wants to get it over with covering my back. I would not trust him to do so. Also, drafting females is a disaster. As a female I would be the worst soldier ever. I have no desire to be in the military and would fight it every chance I got. Universal service is not the answer either. Perhaps more young people would be enticed to serve if they knew they would be put on the border to protect our country not sent to some forsaken place lots of them would have trouble finding on a map.
12/9/19	Service (i.e., volunteering) has inherent value, but servitude (compelled labor) does not. Service is chosen; it is done because someone believes in supporting a cause through their efforts or elects to assist others. Service fulfills the volunteer's deep desires; it provides great value to that person and benefits those who see the results of that person's free choice to serve. Servitude possesses none of these essential value attributes; it is experienced as a penalty, and often very poorly done.
12/9/19	The US can increase the desire for young Americans to perform public service by correcting the catastrophic decline in educating them about their history and the worthiness of their country and their culture. There is a direct correlation between the loss of civic pride in our history and society, on the one hand, and the irrelevance of public service to vast numbers of Americans as they go through their lives. The young, at any rate, can be educated, and should be instructed far better about the positives of American public philosophy and history, and this country's variant of Anglo-European civilization.
12/9/19	The US can increase the desire for young Americans to perform public service by correcting the catastrophic decline in educating them about their history and the worthiness of their country and their culture. There is a direct correlation between the loss of civic pride in our history and society, on the one hand, and the irrelevance of public service to vast numbers of Americans as they go through their lives. The young, at any rate, can be educated, and should be instructed far better about the positives of American public philosophy and history, and this country's variant of Anglo-European civilization.
12/9/19	A significant barrier to voluntary participation in military, national or public service is ignorance regarding the personal benefits of prudently electing to make such a commitment. Another such barrier is the perhaps well-founded belief that the staggeringly colossal amount of money spent by our government to provide services that is partly extracted from people as taxes over a lifetime is a suitable proxy for temporary personal service.
12/9/19	Encouraging individuals with already-developed critical skills to volunteer for public service will require increasing the incentives for them to do so (e.g., provide compensation beyond simply pay [grants? future tax breaks?], guarantee interesting work unavailable in the private sector, and various forms of non-monetary accolades [decorations, designations, honors]).
12/9/19	Neither the military draft or draft contingency are still important to US national security. The American volunteer military is a highly-capable array of forces that served well over the last decades of the Cold War and in the geostrategic military environment of the last quarter century plus. Draft registration, introduced 40 years ago by an incompetent Presidential administration, has been a useless appurtenance to American force projection and deterrence, and is a wasteful holdover from a late Cold War episode of American leadership bankruptcy. Those few countries in the West that have reintroduced not only registration but also conscription have done so for reasons that do not apply to us (e.g., Sweden rightly concerned about a very proximate Russian instability threat).
12/9/19	There are at least two modifications necessary to the selective service system. First, it needs to be modified out of existence. After 40 utterly inert years of wasting hundreds of millions of dollars, it is long past time to end it. But if it won't be ended, then the shamefully inegalitarian imposition of the registration requirement on only males must be, and women 18-25 should be required to register as well. Once the old Supreme Court rationale for the constitutionality

	of male-only draft registration ended several years ago by the opening of combat positions to women, this country's leadership has exhibited a gross and obvious violation of equal treatment under law by failing to extend registration to women.
12/9/19	A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is neither necessary, nor valuable, nor feasible. It is not necessary because our security plainly does not depend on mandatory labor conscripted by the government. It is not valuable because mandatory labor is often viewed as punitive and performed poorly. It is not feasible because in reality only the unfortunate young would be targets for conscripted state labor. Even limiting conscription to all young Americans would require an expensive governmental bureaucracy in a time where the Federal and many sub-Federal government entities are spending so vastly and have incurred such immense and ever growing debt that ever single dollar spent should be justified far beyond the level that anyone advocating for national mandatory labor has done so far.
12/9/19	Continuing with female candidates for Commander in Chief (President) while not mandating that 18 years old women be registered with Selective Service is unconscionable. Women are or have been combat unit commanders, fighter pilots, occupying slots at service academies for 40 years, the entire 5 officer B-52 crew, etc. There is no physical reason for excluding 18-year-old women from Selective Service. John Shalikashvili was drafted, stayed in the service and finished his career as Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff. Unless all 18-year-olds know "exactly" where they're going, the Draft can be a good thing leading to a career. Currently, this path is not open to women!
12/10/19	Abolish the draft. Then abolish the military and give the funding to national service programs like AmeriCorps who actually support and strengthen our communities.
12/10/19	Thank you for a well informed report. This report will serve well for Congress and the President to address this very important issue about being an American. All Americans (natural born and immigrants) have the privilege of living in a nation that welcomes all and fundamentally works for peace and justice throughout both the USA and the World. One of the obligations of this privilege is that we all must give back to our country. We seem to have lost our sense of national pride and service to others, and a cause greater than ourselves. National service for all Americans would be a useful way that we all can give back to our country, and all of our citizens. I would like to see this report, along with the information provided by the Congressional Research Office, used by a bipartisan Congress to enact National Service. We have so many needs that can be serviced with giving back to our country: Military service, National Public Health Service, Public Lands Service (National parks, Forests, BLM Lands, etc), Helping with the housing Crises in impoverished areas, and possibly even looking at resurrection of the Civilian Conservation Corps. There are many opportunities to serve and help educate our citizens to be stewards of our country. Our country was founded on the principles of equal opportunity for all, along with a sense of personal responsibility. A National Service obligation for ALL citizens, regardless of gender, race, immigrant status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, health status, or geography within the United States and its territories that is fairly administered by random selection will provide a huge benefit to the United States. I really believe that each and every citizen has something to give back to our country. Thank you.
12/10/19	Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill Most adults know that serving others is one of the keys to a happy life. Our economic system is designed to keep this secret from our kids. Rather than treating them like the treasures they are, we view them as a market to be exploited. We sell them things, telling them that a reliable way to be happy is to

	<p>take, to consume. Get the right device, the right sneakers, the right game or toy...and you will be happy. Some lucky kids learn the truth because have parents who provide service opportunities, or belong to scouts or a church group, or attend a school with a service learning program. But too many learn to be takers. We adults can fulfill our responsibility to our young people by offering them opportunities to learn about serving, through their own experience. That's the best way for them to learn the secret. Chad Glang, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist</p>
12/10/19	<p>National Service is incredibly valuable, both as a service to our country and as a career pathway for National Service Members. AmeriCorps VISTA is particularly focused on poverty reduction, yet it is very difficult to recruit members from the communities served by the projects. A current member who is struggling financially recently told me that she already had the experience of growing up in poverty and it's very hard to live on the low living allowance (which is poverty wages). She is a Latina woman working on a project that is serving the Latino community. It's so important to have service members from the community, but it's not sustainable for so many people who already come from poverty. How can we increase the living allowance so that National Service is an option, financially, for people from low-income backgrounds?</p>
12/10/19	<p>Service has immense value. Members receive real world experience and networking and an education award and learn the value and personal benefits of service. The community receives inspiration from the members' impact and presence.</p> <p>Marketing is key</p> <p>A good job market is competition for service.</p> <p>Marketing and presentation.</p> <p>I sure hope we don't need to resort to a draft</p> <p>No mandatory service. This is America.</p>
12/10/19	<p>When I turned eighteen I tried to register as a conscientious objector and was told that I could not because, as a woman, I was not subject to the draft. Both women and men should have equal opportunity to serve their country in the ways that they choose. As a Quaker and a pacifist, I cannot support forcing people to do things they find morally objectionable but if there has to be a draft it should be equally applied to ALL people over eighteen (men, women, immigrants, queer people, nothing should prevent people from serving if they choose). Public service is inherently valuable, both to our country and the individuals doing the work, but we should give people other opportunities to serve that will help our country more. At no point has the draft been a necessary component to US National Security. Why not draft people into the State Department instead, since that is where the most valuable work of keeping the peace is actually accomplished?</p>
12/11/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? Yes, BUT ONLY if voluntary. Forced service is slavery How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Preserve freedom</p>

	<p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? None if voluntary...or driven by the individual</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? Preserve freedom</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Eliminate it</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It's no different than slavery</p>
12/11/19	<p>I believe the draft violates individual freedom and makes our country less safe. We shouldn't force young women to register or be drafted into combat along with men; we should end this conscription program for everyone.</p>
12/11/19	<p>I have general feedback on most of the memorandum if you don't mind. :)</p> <p>I'm 16, a junior in high school, and from what I can see any action that is made will cause a lot of out cry from different groups. On the topic of military draft it makes things a bit more personal, you won't just have groups protesting but a more massive out cry. For me and many of my generation the 1970s seems like a long time ago and going farther back to WW2 it's hard to believe it was less than 100 years ago. Many of us don't know that kind of fear, many of us don't see the draft as a possibility. I understand the need for women's rights, for the United States desperate need for equality, and although some things still need to be worked on, equal pay is the first thing that comes to mind, we've made an extreme change since women's rights exploded during and after WW2. And more than anything we need time to adjust, for mindsets to change and the old, almost unbelievable, mindsets to die out. I myself am a women, a young one, an inexperienced one, and what I say may mean little. But I will still speak my mind, and to answer one of your questions, the reason I don't want to enlist is I see no future for myself in it, with the rest of my peers I'm force to make my decisions for my future in a world I barely know. What I do know of the world is mostly bad, harsh, and what I know of military action from what I learn in history to what I read for literature is death, illegal actions, and little justice. I have yet to hear a story of a military women who has not face many horrors, though that is the kind of story that would gain traction with the media. Many military personal get traumatized regardless of gender. So putting all these thoughts together it's not a compelling picture. Even if I put all that aside I still see drafting women as a horrifying idea. Again I am for women's rights but sometimes it gets taken a bit too far... women and men as much as feminists and liberals and the US in general want equality it's impossible unless we throw out gender and all become gender less beings. pregnancy, periods and other such things can make things complicated. As well as a very real fear of rape and sexual harassment, considering how clogged the American court system already is and the need for thorough evidence justice is far out of reach. So the summarize I fear the idea that women could get drafted, that anyone could, because like every other sane human being I fear death, I fear pain, and more than anything else I fear being forced into a position I can't escape where being a women makes me a target, a target that will need all the courage in the world to admit to being a victim, to being weak.</p> <p>Sincerely, A Concerned United States Citizen</p>
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Sincerely,
A Concerned United States Citizen

I am the author of Step Forward America - A Case for a National Service Program, and I testified at the February 21 hearing.

I am totally in favor of a universal program, and, while I propose a mandatory program in my book, I realize that, at least under the current social climate, a voluntary program is more realistic. I believe that this voluntary program, assuming it has enough incentives to participate and enough disincentives not to, can eventually become truly universal.

I have one suggested improvement and one major concern related to the program as now envisioned by the Commission and others actively advocating.

Suggested improvement: In addition to the policy options outlined in Staff Memorandum - Civic Education, I would like to see as part of the national service program a component that addresses both civic education and a curriculum in life preparation as outlined in Chapter Eleven in my book. This would include subjects that would prepare the participant leaving the year of service to become an educated enlightened citizen capable of meeting the challenges of everyday life, e.g. an understanding of taxes, health insurance and retirement benefits, a familiarity with economic theories and personal finance, knowledge about current affairs, immigration, gun safety, etc., an understanding of how to evaluate information on social media and the news, etc., etc. I would see this as a course available at no charge to participants during or after their service year(s).

Major concern: As outlined in Chapter Eight of my book, living and working with fellow service people of other ethnic, racial, social and economic backgrounds, this new generation of enlightened citizens will have developed greater tolerance for differences of opinion, and will have started to develop their own new ideas on what America's social, economic and political priorities should be. They will participate in government not only by going to the ballot

12/11/19

	<p>box when called upon, but by keeping open communications with their elected officials, reading their newsletters, listening to their speeches, and giving them feedback on issues about which they feel strongly. A mandatory service program can be structured so as to ensure that all participate in a diverse setting, much like a military draft, whereas it may be difficult to ensure this in a voluntary program. Those organizations that sponsor service participants will have to somehow ensure a diverse setting. Difficult, but not impossible.</p> <p>Ted Hollander, Sherman, CT - [REDACTED]</p>
12/12/19	<p>If you don't eliminate the military congressional age limit of 42 for military service (particularly in the reserves), you will fail to attract the generations most interested. The 8 year contracts, horrible pay, and youth focus are a recipe for disaster. Allow otherwise qualified middle-aged people to serve part-time, on-call, or for shorter periods. Looks to the Swiss, Swedes, etc. Even the Brits and Aussies make room for people in their 50s today 60s to serve. What's wrong with us as a nation?</p>
12/12/19	<p>How about a National, Military and Public Service Information Certificate required for high School graduation, college graduation, welfare and food stamps?</p>
12/12/19	<p>I was drafted into the US Army in 1969 when I was 21 years old. At the time I saw this as an imposed obligation that I tried, unsuccessfully, to avoid. In the subsequent years I have come to the position that all Americans should spend some time in the service to the country. Ideally this should be of a voluntary nature but, if necessary, I would support some sort of mandatory national service; military or otherwise.</p>
12/12/19	<p>Dear Commission on Selective Service:</p> <p>A return to a total military draft would be a step in the wrong direction. The U.S. still has totally mandatory jury duty in which poor quality uneducated drafted jurors provide poor quality verdicts. Trevon Martin was denied justice when 12 draftees who were unable to dodge jury duty upheld the right of a untrained security guard to execute Trevon Martin based on mere suspicion only without any probable cause.</p> <p>12 drafted jurors also authorized the brutal execution of Kelly Thomas by the Fullerton Police department just for being poor and homeless without having committed any other crime.</p> <p>The people in charge of the All Volunteer U.S. military said that in spite of its problems the all Volunteer U.S. military has better quality recruits than a total military draft would have provided.</p> <p>Changing jury service to allow volunteers to choose a courthouse and a starting month but not a specific trial instead of continuing to require mandatory jury service will improve the accuracy of jury verdicts and improve justice.</p> <p>The Vietnam war was lost because poor quality draftees lost that war for us.</p>

Currently the United States has a FRAUD BASED economic U.S. military draft in which public and private colleges trick young people into signing student loan documents in which student loans have to be repaid and then borrowers have to serve in the U.S. military for several terms of enlistment in order to repay their expensive student loans.

The war in Afghanistan is a never ending stalemate in which soldiers are afraid that if they win that war that they might be discharged before they are finished repaying their student loans.

If you want to win wars including Afghanistan then UPGRADE the U.S. economic military draft by eliminating new student loans and the FRAUD that they create. Limit civilian student financial aid including Pell grants to very smart students who have fully fulfilled their High School requirements including a second year of Algebra.

People should voluntarily enlist in the U.S. military FIRST and if they still want to go to college after completing at least 4 years of military service then they should get a G.I. bill GRANT for college instead of a student loan.

All service should be voluntary including jury service and national service and public service and military service.

If there are not enough volunteers in the U.S. military then upgrade the Solomon amendment to shut down all forms of civilian student financial aid until the U.S. military is filled up with enough volunteers.

The smartest students should be given priority for civilian student financial aid instead of the poorest students and nobody should be allowed to borrow money for college.

It is my opinion that if a national emergency causes the reinstatement of the U.S. military draft then only student financial aid recipients can be drafted.

[REDACTED]

1. Public serve has significant inherent value that extends long past the life of the service period. I am a former Peace Corps Volunteer, and found the experience of Peace Corps service to be life changing in an overwhelmingly positive way.

12/12/19

	<p>2. I think standardizing and incentivizing public service as a norm for Americans under 25 and Americans after they retire would increase the desire for Americans to serve.</p> <p>3. Finances are a significant barrier to service, especially volunteer service. Also, public service screening processes often have a zero-tolerance policy toward criminal and mental health records. These policies should be relaxed to allow non-violent and minor offenses to be forgiven through the process of public service, and for mental health that has been addressed to not be an impediment to service.</p> <p>4. NO comment.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. Yes. It should be eliminated. If not eliminated, it should be inclusive of ALL individuals under 26, regardless of gender identity or sex.</p> <p>7. Yes. Many other countries have successfully implemented such a system, and it's high time the USA did as well.</p>
12/12/19	<p>As a former US Peace Corps volunteer, I believe that service has great value to the nation, our communities, and to our own personal lives. However, service is a very personal choice and should not be mandatory for individuals. I feel strongly that requiring public service has a lot of negative consequences that will directly impact impoverished communities. I do not believe we should be drafting anyone (regardless of gender) into the military. Those who don't volunteer would feel resentful for being forced to serve. The last thing we need is resentful people defending our nation. Selective service should be abolished. Mandatory service should not be the aim. If you want people to volunteer or sign up for the military or other national service, offer better benefits and signing bonuses (specifically for military) and incentives for participation (good examples include the non competitive eligibility for returned Peace Corps volunteers and return bonuses).</p>
12/12/19	<p>Value of service: I write to you as a Returned Peace Corps volunteers--the word returned says it all because we are not FORMER volunteers. I just retired from a federal career where I was able to incorporate volunteerism into all of my work. As an example over 11,000 hours/year contributed by over 800 volunteers at Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument. I also worked extensively with AmeriCorps volunteers in rural Oregon and worked as Peace Corps staff. The value of serving through formal government programs is huge. Citizens have the opportunity to participate more and take ownership of how things are instead of sitting back bemoaning the government. AS Peace Corps volunteers we learned about another culture, but this is also made possible with AmeriCorps as urban folk can serve in rural areas and vice versa; these are becoming larger cultural divides in America that these programs work to resolve through people to people investment and learning. To increase participation, some of the benefits of military such as hiring priority and educational stipends should be expanded for Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. time limits on rehire should be extended to recognize and encourage the value these folks bring to the government workforce. Many of the most creative and dedicated federal colleagues I worked with had some volunteer program in their background--unfortunately my experiences with veteran hiring priority were not as positive and had overtones of entitlement. i would favor the carrot approach over the stick of mandatory service. link opportunities to training, education and priority in hiring. Make sure that</p>

	<p>programs provide enough stipend to enable more than just wealthy participants to survive during their service. Make more and better internship opportunities in federal agencies that link to AmeriCorps and other programs--and be sure to provide support and training to the Federal agencies so that the positions are attractive to participants and not just 'solving' a labor problem.--lots of lessons learned when USDA started out with AmeriCorps. Thank you for working to promote and sup[port volunteerism.</p> <p>Amy Wilson, Peace Corps Niger, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon RC&D/USDA Nat. Rec. Conservation Service, Mount St Helens Nat. Vol. Monument/USDA Forest Service</p>
12/13/19	<p>I don't think national service should be mandatory, but opportunities to serve should be expanded. So many Americans don't even know AmeriCorps or Peace Corps exist.. Every person who is turned away from the Peace Corps should be shared the AmeriCorps website. Every guidance counselor in the country should show options to include college, military, AmeriCorps, and Peace Corps. AmeriCorps NCCC, which has the lowest barriers to service, should be promoted for youth from disadvantaged circumstances. None of this happens when the White House proposes budget cuts to the Peace Corps and a zeroing out of AmeriCorps. National service is, unfortunately, America's best kept secret. We need to change that. We need leaders that value service and promote it every chance they can get.</p>
12/13/19	<p>Dear Mr. Heck:</p> <p>Next year provides you with the chance of at least recommending to the Congress to finally do away with the injustice of the selective service for only men, remembering all those ONLY MEN who perished in World War 1 and 2, Korea, and Vietnam, and had no choice but to under threat of penalty while women have done nothing out of force, only volunteerism. Please remember the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and not only the 8 women on it who gave their lives but also the 68,000 men too, many who who drafted in this lottery of death. Hopefully you will do away with the whole thing but it not please FORCE women do finally have to do something. Thanks for the chance to comment and happy holiday. With Respect</p>
12/13/19	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>Since this commission has considered various proposals for national, mandatory service, has it considered that mandatory service equals involuntary servitude?</p> <p>Has this concern been appropriately addressed?</p> <p>It seems to me that a mandatory service requirement is in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution; specifically, the 13th Amendment. This important amendment makes involuntary servitude illegal under any U.S. jurisdiction whether at the hands of the U.S. government or in the private sphere, except as punishment for a crime.</p> <p>Thus, how can you legally compel US citizens to serve, and not violate the Thirteenth Amendment?</p> <p>Again, I believe a mandatory service requirement is clearly a violation our Constitution, and goes against the core principle of our founding, namely - individual liberty. Our government derives its authority by the consent of the people in order to serve and protect the people, not the other way around.</p>

US citizens should never be forced to serve the needs of the government.

Also, Dr. Joseph Heck, Chairman of the Commission states:

“The Commission was created with a broad, aspirational mandate: to develop ideas that will foster a greater ethos of military, national, and public service among Americans of all ages and, in the process, strengthen our democracy.”

I do not believe the federal government has the Constitutional authority to foster or compel US citizens towards a particular ethos or service-related paradigm. This concept runs contrary to human freedom. Mandatory service does not, I repeat, does not “strengthen our democracy.” Rather, forced labor stems from the same mindset that produced WW II’s Germany and modern-day communist dictatorships.

Contrary to mandatory service, the principles of American liberty inform us that genuine service must always be voluntary. Involuntary service is nothing less than slave labor by means of a tyrannical government.

How and why was this measure passed and signed into law by a Republican Congress and Republican president? I have heard nothing about this commission, from any news agency, or anyone else.

I hope you reconsider what you are proposing in light of the Constitution and the purpose of the federal government: namely the protection, and maintenance of individual and corporate human liberty.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Boyes
Coupeville, WA

Conscription and the selective service system needs to be eliminated. No worthwhile wars have been fought (or won for that matter) since 1945. People rallied in the 1940s because it was right to do so, and in our nation's interest.

You would be hard-pressed to draft any youth now. It's the information age, they're informed, and wouldn't serve the nation that America has become (e.g. imperialist). Particularly if you try to make women register, as the all-male draft is obviously unconstitutional.

As such, I'd recommend a much more inclusive military service system. What I mean by that, is that you eliminate ALL barriers to service. People aged 35 to 60 would be much more likely to serve, and there are plenty of jobs they could do. Make the terms of service shorter (6 months to 2 years), have on-call national defense, etc.

12/13/19

	<p>If you're trying to pitch a "job" (low-paid at that) with multi-year contracts to youth that KNOW our reasons for going to war are nonsense (recent release of Afghan papers highlighting culture of lies in government and the military) not only will their service continue to decline, but if we ever "needed" to go to war with China, Iran, NK, etc. we would lose simply on lack of personnel. The resultant anti-war movement would be like we've never seen.</p> <p>So again, open the doors to a larger diversity of people (e.g. older, immigrants, etc.) with more waivers to fill that void.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and my ability to provide input!</p>
12/13/19	<p>Please do not add women to the selective service system as men currently are; instead, please simply end the draft.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/14/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service to a community, including the United States, has an inherent value of building that community. Most of our community institutions would fail without voluntary service. 2. Mandatory service to a community, as in a sentence for criminal behavior or the Draft, tends to undermine personal motivation to serve, unless the common interest is seen as overwhelming the mandatory character of the service. 3. Today's America faces a troubling tendency towards self-serving behavior, and a breakdown in dedication to community-building. Some say that this is based on addiction to technology and self-serving habits, in addition to materialism and the challenges of daily living. 4. Many of us, including me, have conscientious objection to serving the military goals of the Government, especially when they are aimed at efforts we see as counter-productive to community-building in the world we inhabit. 5. Voluntary military service tends to draw in those whose economic opportunities are otherwise slim, leading to low morale and substandard performance. A Draft would reverse this trend if the objective of military service was seen as serving the survival of our nation, but otherwise it would tend to reduce morale and performance. 6. With today's technology Selective Service Registration is an intrusive and resented requirement, especially if it doesn't offer an option for conscientious objection to military service. 7. Mandatory service requirements for all Americans would lead to ruinous abuses, exceptions, and other activities destructive of the reasons why we love America.
12/14/19	<p>I don't know a single youth (18-35) that would join today's military. However, every 35-65 year old man I know would join a reserve program for one year. Keep that in mind to boost the ranks and promote national cohesion.</p>
12/15/19	<p>I think a mandatory military serve to our country should be required for everyone (man & woman, no exceptions, no rich daddy, no politician sons or daughters should be exempt) over the age of 18 or they graduated from high school. They should have to serve at least two years in the military. Government should then pay at least 80% of their college or technical education. Kids, now a day, think we owe them,</p>
12/15/19	<p>Universal access? Great idea! Eliminate or modify the military age limit to reflect that of other nations.</p>
12/15/19	<p>I'd like to comment on barriers to participation in national public service, specifically VISTA. First, the childcare allowance, which is less than State and National programs, is far too low, especially in states such as Minnesota, which has some of the highest child care in the country. It is nearly impossible for</p>

someone to serve without adequate assistance to get qualified care for their minor dependents.

There is always an issue with housing, especially in tight rental markets where rents continue to rise and gentrification continues to displace people. Many potential members from communities we serve would be able to successfully complete a VISTA year if there was more support for finding safe and stable housing.

A significantly increased stipend amount is necessary, as well. It is unconscionable that there are AmeriCorps members working in the field on things like employment access when they aren't even making minimum wage themselves. I once saw an AmeriCorps program flyer that said "Every person deserves a living wage!" It was laughable how someone making around \$6 an hour had to sell this idea to others. AmeriCorps members deserve a living wage. Being temporarily poor doesn't enable you to empathize with poor people more, nor does it encourage you to give your best to service and strive to really make a difference. It makes you exhausted, your basic needs aren't met, and you can't give 100%. Nobody should live like that, and since this is temporary poverty for many who have safety nets, it's not a realistic experience of poverty anyways.

In terms of military service, more Americans would participate if the United States took care of racism, sexism, sexual assault, and transphobia within the military. Who wants to serve with a group of people who constantly attack your identity and for which you are not safe? Moreover, Americans would be more likely to serve if we weren't engaged in endless wars that were started without purpose and without a plan to get out. Finally, Americans would want to serve if military families were not living on poverty wages, and if returning vets could count on the country they served taking care of them when they are injured or mentally ill, and living in poverty and struggling with addiction. A military draft is absolutely not a necessary component of national security; neither is the massive budget the military receives. Healthcare, education, housing, parental and sick leave, fair wages, transportation, etc. are the things that make us a safer nation, and which encourage Americans to engage in public service. When their country serves them, they are encouraged to and free to serve others.

I was drafted into the US Army in September 1966. I was not in favor of the draft at that time and was glad to see it end. However, in recent years I believe that a draft could well have prevented the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as those in power would have had to answer to their constituents who would not have been in favor of sending their relatives or themselves into harm's way. If the draft ever is re-instated it should truly require all Americans to serve their country in whatever capacity they are qualified to fulfill. No deferments, no phony medical problems. When I was drafted, I had flat feet, a diagnosed mitral valve prolapse (heart murmur), and no depth perception due to astigmatism. It didn't matter. I ended up in Vietnam two days before the Tet offensive, and served over there for the remaining 5 months of my time in service.

If everyone is required to perform public service, it could be a great equalizer for our nation. People could be educated in civics which I believe would help in reducing the political divisiveness that we are currently experiencing as a nation. If rich and poor, religious and non-religious, all races and genders are required to interact and work together on a daily basis, they will learn what humanity really is, and how to resolve conflict. I'm not naive enough to believe that this will work perfectly, but it can't be any worse than what our current culture is devolving into.

12/16/19

	I think that everyone should serve and be rewarded by being offered a corresponding amount of time at a public university or trade school of their choice after their service.
12/16/19	I'm so very glad to hear that your team is confirming "STAFF MEMORANDUM: Expanding Selective Service Registration to All Americans". The "opponents of extending registration" appear to not acknowledge the variety of roles in modern combat or the inclusion of women in combat. I'm glad to see the recommendation to modify selective service to include all americans, given we all pay taxes and have a right to vote and equal standing in all other areas of society, with which come important responsibilities to uphold the freedom of our nation.
12/17/19	<p>For Draft</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Made all Americans aware national security was their responsibility, not only that of a few. It made war real! 2) Made security the responsibility of all educational, financial, and racial classes; and regions of U.S. 3) Made available specialty skills like drs., lawyers, engineers. 4) Taught skills for general civilian work upon discharge. 5) Taught regimentation, hygiene, proper dress, and patriotism. <p>Improve Draft Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) For servicemen, make federal policy and state income tax the same 2) Make draft years low income not detrimental to social security 3) Draft youngest age first, not 26 when careers and family suffer <p>Draft Experience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) On Nov. 5, 1967, the day of my finals for my master's degree in ceramic sciences I received my draft notice. On Jan. 4, 1968, I was in a bad car accident, broke two vertebrae, and out of work for 4 months. On Aug. 1, 1969, I was inducted without a physical: said it would occur at basic training (never did). 2) After discharge, Union Carbide did everything to make me quit because they had hired a replacement while I was gone. My salary ruined their budget. <p>P.S. VVA, Inc.: Please email for me. I don't have access</p> <p>Candidly, Norman A. Heiman</p>
12/17/19	<p>Natl. Commission – Draft info request.</p> <p>In an article in the Nov. Dec. issue of the Veteran paper, along with the location, was a request for information on Were You Drafted – Vietnam. I don't have a computer so I used the local library to get an address for you. The article you placed says you can submit your input on draft boards etc., up to 500 words. My story takes more than 500 words if any one there, or those you will present your present your findings to.</p> <p>Back in 1959 when I was 12 years old, I was hit by a car and suffered brain damage. Brain damage entitles you to a 4F draft classification and exempts you from military service. I took a draft physical in Feb. 1966 + took my hospital records + also a doctor's report saying my wife was pregnant. At the end of the physical the drs. discussed if I should get a 3A or 4F, the 3A defers you due to a hardship to dependent, but can be changed back to what you were before 3A, if that hardship goes away. Not so with a 4F for what I had. The brain damage issue would be for all my life + so would the 4F deferment. Due to circumstances, in 1968 my wife, son and I moved from Ohio to Calif. Then, in March of 69 I came back here with plans to get a job + apartment, then fly back to Calif + drive her + our son back in her car which we had purchased out there. According to the draft registration form, you are required by Federal Law to provide change of address. When I did that, I was reclassified 1A. I went to the draft board + they said I'd get drafted in 2 weeks if my wife wasn't back here +</p>

	<p>she went there + signed papers. It had to be done in your Home Draft Board, I got reclassified on Mar. 25, 69 + had until April 9th to have her there. I went to Calif. with out enough \$ to drive back + ran out of time. I went to the draft board in LA + they said there was nothing they could do, but they could set me up with an Army recruiter so I wouldn't get in trouble for not reporting to Cleveland, OH on the 9th to be inducted so that's how I ended up in the Army. I think if you were drafted + didn't show up, you could be fined + put in jail. Being in the Army when I shouldn't have been seemed like better than being in jail. I spent 20 months + 3 days in the Army, spent 3 ½ months in Vietnam as a Scout Dog Handler where I worked point for infantry companies. I have a Bronze Star with V and ARCOM with V, a CIB and several other combat decorations. I saw lots of combat + got confirmed kills etc. on numerous missions. Then when I got home, I developed PTSD. I filed a claim with the VA + went 10%, then 30% + 50%. In 2005, at a C+P exam, the psychiatrist she had received my military records + did I know that people who had brain damage never had to serve in the military? So, when times allowed, I contacted my U.S. Senator, Sherrod Brown + the Senior Const. advisor, got my records + confirmed I should have never been in the Army + the Army should owe me some large compensation for what happened to me.</p> <p>There is a lot more to this story, but I won't go into that unless someone there or in the government is interested in hearing it.</p> <p>I sent you an email with my phone # and now this letter + I'll wait for your reply. I can come to Washington to discuss this if it would help.</p> <p>According to a member of the House Armed Services Committee at the Rayburn building, this happened to others too.</p> <p>Please respond.</p> <p>Sincerely, James F. Meechan</p> <p>What happened to me was a violation of my Constitution Right – to Equal Protection. Donald Trump got a 4F after 4 yr. 2S student deferment for bone spurs on his heels or heel because his family DR told the draft board he had them. He doesn't remember which heel. I know I had brain damage + it was in my Army records.</p>
12/17/19	<p>To Whom It Concerns:</p> <p>I wish to comment on two elements in the discussion regarding required national service.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am opposed to a national service requirement. Regarding military service, I am a pacifist, and am conscientiously opposed to warfare. This is not me sending someone to fight in my place. I am opposed to warfare and its preparations on the part of anyone. Our tax money and the gifts and passions of our citizens should go elsewhere. In my view, no one should be required nor afforded the opportunity to learn to kill. No one should be afforded the opportunity nor required to work in support of military efforts, such as in the roles of cooks, medical personnel, computer programming, etc. 2. I am opposed to the continuation of required Selective Service registration. Hence, I am also opposed to women being required to register. <p>Of what am I in favor? Encouraging and providing resources for our citizens willing to serve for opportunities via NGOs with a global perspective. And in the U.S., optional service opportunities with those federal, state, and local agencies working at things like forest preservation, mental health concerns, climate change issues, international understanding, practical peacemaking, etc.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Sincerely, Edward B. Nyce</p>
12/17/19	<p>December 10, 2019</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>PLEASE read the enclosed mailing from the Union of concerned Scientists. It documents the real threat to our National Security, our public health, our public</p>

	<p>infrastructures, and our food supplies.</p> <p>NONE of these threats to our country can be met by military means. In fact, our military budget takes taxpayer dollars from funding the ways to meet these grave threats to our country. Indeed, our military adds to the threat of climate change with every airplane flown, every naval vessel sailed, every soldier transported to one of our 80 military bases.</p> <p>On a more personal note, my father enlisted in the Navy after Pearl Harbor and was a Lieutenant jg when he was killed in 1942 in a naval airplane crash. He left a widow who had been married for seven years and four children under the age of six. It was difficult to explain to us little ones what Death was, let alone why our beloved father had been killed.</p> <p>Please end the draft. We must stop training our young men to be killers. We should instead encourage them to be good stewards of our beloved land and to care for all our fellow creatures in this imperiled planet.</p> <p>Sincerely, Judith Stetson</p>
12/17/19	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>On behalf of Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference, a historic peace church, we are writing in response to your invitation for public comment. A brief history of Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference. Our roots lie in the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland over 500 years ago. More recently, in 1893, the Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference developed from a withdrawal of conservative minded leaders and laity from the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. In the present day, our Conference has members and churches in various states, including Pennsylvania, Virginia New York, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Kentucky.</p> <p>Our beliefs, based on the Bible, are that God clearly intended and made provisions for two kingdoms, [KJV John 18:36] one kingdom as earthly rulers and one kingdom of Heaven, a spiritual God centered kingdom. The teachings of Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible are clear that as citizens of this country, we are responsible to honor the government, be law abiding and upbuilding citizens [KJV 1st Peter 2:13-17]. Jesus' teachings, as related to government matters, also clearly indicate that his followers are to be non-resistant [KJV Matthew 5:38-48]. Non-resistance being not only opposed to being involved in the military but also to be practiced as a daily way of life. Because of this we cannot conscientiously participate in the military or many government affairs, we cannot conscientiously bring a lawsuit against our fellow man.</p> <p>We believe, through the teachings of the Bible, that God understands the fallen nature of man and has made provision through the governments of the earth to bear the sword, to be the keepers of law and order [KJV Romans 13:1-7].</p> <p>Within this framework of beliefs, we find that service does have inherent value. Its value lies in Jesus' teaching his followers to daily serve him by serving their fellowman [KJV Luke 6:27-36]. According to the Bible and our beliefs [KJV Romans 12:1-21], a life of service is one area Christians will be judged by God as being worthy or unworthy of eternal life in Heaven [KJV Matthew 25:31-46]. Would it benefit the people of our country to focus on service as defined by the Bible? Absolutely. However, this is a work for the churches and not for the government.</p> <p>If we can be clear, our understanding of service is different than promoted by the government.</p> <p>Concerning the military draft, our desire would be that women cannot be drafted. Whatever the result of the Commission's recommendations to Congress, we plead that a mechanism would be in place for those who are conscientiously opposed to service as defined by the government, to be able through proof of their beliefs to be exempt from said service. A current example would be the draft boards as administered by the Selective Service System. Currently the Selective Service System administers an Alternative Service Program. Through our mutual understanding of this program, Weaverland Conference has</p>

established Weaverland Disaster Service, a program for our youth to serve in areas that have suffered natural disasters, doing cleanup and rebuilding work. This organization was established in 2005 to be an acceptable form of alternative service. Our plea is that the Weaverland Disaster Service would continue to be an acceptable form of alternative service.

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

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

Sincerely,
 Melvin Sauder, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference
 Elvin Martin, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference
 James Burkholder, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2L4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women. Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator.

12/17/19 We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between “giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” and “giving to God the things

	<p>that are God’s”. We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services.</p> <p>Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rev. Michael Waldner Hutterian Brethren</p>
12/17/19	<p>Subject: Selective Service</p> <p>Dear Dr. Heck:</p> <p>I am a military veteran with 22+ years of active duty service, and I have three daughters whose ages are in the window of a potential future military draft. If they volunteer to serve in the military, I have told them that they have my blessing to “be all they can be”, as the slogan goes. What I do not support, however, is the possibility of them being required to register for Selective Service and being compelled to serve when able bodied males may not be compelled to serve.</p> <p>My objections are on moral grounds. If America chooses to compel women to fight its next war, When there is even one able bodied male relaxing on a college campus, that would be a national disgrace and America doesn’t deserve to win. If there is a crisis so bad that only a draft will suffice, then men need to step up first. Period.</p> <p>Activist Federal judges notwithstanding, the Constitution does not require all women to be vulnerable to conscription because a few can qualify to serve in combat specialties. That definition of “fairness” is disingenuous, because it attempts to conceal a broader set of motives and desired outcomes unrelated to military service.</p> <p>If fairness is the goal, then compel everyone to serve without exception – that’s fair. If gender equality is the goal, then abolish the Selective Service system entirely – that’s equal. If military readiness and effectiveness to respond to a national emergency is the goal, then retain the current practice of requiring only males to register and serve in a military draft.</p> <p>There are many ways for citizens to serve without requiring them to register for a potential draft and compelling them to serve in the military. I appreciate your service on the commission and wish you well as you attempt to craft a truly fair and feasible path forward.</p> <p>Sincerely, Timothy M. Cool, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)</p>
12/17/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? <p>We have learned from the recent Washington Post report on the Afghan War and our knowledge of the Vietnam War that war brings only deaths and destruction and has no moral value. War ultimately is unethical. We are one world and one people. We cannot kill one another. Ultimately killing an “enemy” is the goal of military service. So therefore military service has no inherent value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? <p>What about encouraging a voluntary public service of 1 or 2 years with no military connection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? <p>Hopefully the barrier to military service is one of conscientious objection. The barrier to national public service might be the lack of a sense of the common</p>

	<p>good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>I am against military service, but motivating people for a national public service could be very valuable in building a sense of pride in our country. It could be like the CCC years ago. We could build connections across race, class, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. I am against war because it only increase more wars. • Are modifications to the selective service system needed? <p>Get rid of it. But should it be allowed to continue: Women should not be included in the draft registration. All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties. National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? <p>Before and now many youth who join the military service are youth who are poor. Their military service often does not help them economically most of the time. It is a temporary fix from deep poverty to less poverty and a life that is not satisfying and is destructive of the person serving and those he kills or damages great. Draft registration should be ended for everyone.</p>
12/17/19	<p>Vietnam Draftee. Saw notice in the VVA magazine and wanted to respond to being drafted during Vietnam. Drafted on 11/23/65 after being turned down by the Air Force and Navy due to my vision (20/400). My student deferment ended in June, 1965. In spite of two rejections I was found to be 1A. To add insult, I was nearly drafted into the USMC. Even the medic who dispensed my military glasses wanted to know why I was there. Anyway, served 2 years at Fort Polk, La. Glad I served but don't really think I should have. My younger brother who had better eye sight than me was found to be 4F.</p>
12/17/19	<p>I have never favored a military draft. A lot of people, myself included, are not suited for military service. This creates a hardship on individuals and the military who waste thousands of dollars training people who shouldn't be there in the first place. Also, as the experience of the wars in Vietnam and the Middle East have shown if you give some politicians the warriors they'll find a war for them. So in my opinion a volunteer service like we have now makes the most sense. However, I would support a volunteer service like the Civilian Conservation Corp. so that some young Americans could serve and learn a skill. Some people need to get out of a negative environment and into a more positive one to avoid drugs and gangs. Thank you for allowing comments. Patrick McGinnis</p>
12/17/19	<p>For anyone that might read this besides this Commission, the word service herein is a subterfuge intended to introduce, support and extend human slavery. No one claiming any concern for human freedom and dignity can tolerate this Commission, its work or its goals. Draft boards must disband. End human trafficking. End the draft.</p>
12/17/19	<p>You're going to have an extremely difficult time with military recruitment moving forward. Not because of lack of outreach, or because kids now are somehow "fat," but because of the fact that kids now are informed. The only kids with any calling see it as a generational/family affair, and even these families are coming to realize it's nonsense. We haven't won a war in 75 years. What pride is there in that?</p>

	<p>The pay is terrible, you sign your life away for years, and are treated like property. It's a raw deal for a nation wrapped up in conflict all over the globe that, despite trillions invested, it can't even win. That's embarrassing, and people (kids) no longer want to be a part of it.</p> <p>Now, perfectly timed, we have the Afghan Papers. Two wars, both BS, twenty years, and you're looking for a way to make kids sign up for that?</p> <p>It's time to eliminate the SSS. If we're attacked or threatened, everyone stateside will pick up arms.</p> <p>If you want people to sign up for the military, you're going to have to do something radical...short contracts, 6 figure pay, zero limitations for service, etc.</p> <p>As far as public service...who in their right mind is going to (or can) relinquish a year of education or pay to serve the state? Besides, it's a socialist principle, and Americans are meant to be rebellious and fearful of overreaching government.</p>
12/18/19	<p>Thank-you in advance for allowing me the opportunity to provide my personal input on this more than valuable matter (Draft].</p> <p>Growing up, I had developed a strong sense of patriotism mainly due to Family and their individual services: WWII & Korea. However, because I was a married but separated person...established rules would not let me make my first choice: the Sea Bees. Feb. 2, 1966 I was inducted into Military service via the draft.</p> <p>At the time people were paying off local Selective Service Board members/family influencing (politics), or hiding in college behind nebulous curricula. I had to sell my home & vehicle, upon returning everything had about doubled in value. My counterparts staying home were able to enjoy that change, whereby I had to start over.</p> <p>One thing one of my Cousins both agreed on: Military service provided us exposure to the things that helped us set straight paths in our lives, while appreciating what once was taken for granted. Further, with the G.I. Bill we completed college, became professional and contributing members of society. All Citizens..male & female need to serve this Country. Such actions would help individuals establish thru positive structured curriculum; a positive base with which to support their everyday lives.</p> <p>Again thank-you. Respectfully submitted, Marvin W. Murphy</p>
12/18/19	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>Regarding questions 2 (how to increase desire for Americans to serve) and 3 (what are the barriers to participation in military service) I believe one challenge is the United States' involvement in both Afghanistan and Iraq.</p> <p>Regarding Afghanistan, we are now sending soldiers to serve there who had not yet been born on 9/11/2001. While not many Americans objected to our initial involvement, why are we still there, supporting a corrupt government? We entered Afghanistan with no exit strategy.</p> <p>Regarding Iraq, the U.S. Army's own study concluded that the major beneficiary of our involvement there was Iran, which was obviously not our intent.</p>

	<p>Given the above, I am not sure I would encourage my sons (I only have boys so this is not intended as a comment on how women should serve) to serve in the military given the strategic missteps (in spite of many tactical victories) described above.</p> <p>Respectively submitted, A concerned (9 year Navy) veteran (with two tours in combat zones)</p>
12/18/19	<p>I think many young Americans (perhaps a majority) have a desire to serve but they don't necessarily desire to serve a military mission. We need to greatly expand opportunities for young people to serve in programs such as Americorps, the Peace Corps, and other forms of public service. All forms of public service need to include benefits (educational, health, etc) that are on par with those provided by military service. Many young people who join the military do so, at least in part, for the educational benefits. Americorps service includes an education benefit but it is much more modest than that provided by the military and Americorps service opportunities are too limited.</p> <p>I think mandatory national service would provide a great benefit to our country. In addition to setting an expectation of service it would bring American of different backgrounds together for a common purpose, something we sorely need. I would support mandatory national service but only if it included greatly increased options for non-military service.</p>
12/18/19	<p>Military service has inherent value, however, it must be voluntary to be of real value. Americans should learn from their earliest days how to value the freedom that we have in this country, and to consider that military service is a proud obligation tied to the obligation of voting.</p> <p>Mandatory service requirements beget sullen and disgruntled personnel, I served with draftees and hated their attitudes. A simple way to encourage participation in both the military and voting is to tie them together, i.e., citizenship should be the outcome of honorable service. This service doesn't have to be limited only to the "physically" fit: see, for example, the Israeli examples of recruiting autistic individuals for military intelligence analysis and their placement of physically disabled individuals in jobs they are able to do. The criteria should be the willingness to risk one's life and health to serve our country.</p>
12/18/19	<p>Every male and female should register for selective service at the age of 18. The military draft should only be instituted in times of war. That being said, every able-bodied person upon reaching the age of 18 should be required to enter public service whether military or other venue for a minimum of 2 years. The value of trained, responsible young adults providing service to their country is immense.</p>
12/18/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Absolutely yes. Instills discipline, responsibility for one's own actions, team work, responsibility to others, to work for the common good, not self, management and supervisory skills and pride in service to the nation.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Easy....change the negative narrative of the media and politicians toward our military.</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? Two strategies: 1. Return "service to others" to an honorable cultural norm, much like it was in the 60s. Unlikely to happen with today's distracted and self-absorbed youth. 2. A combination mandatory and incentivized service.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? The military draft should remain in place indefinitely or until the world is at total peace, so I guess indefinitely. There should be a form of mandatory selective service with military and non-military options. It should have a</p>

	<p>fair and just system of enforcement. Several countries have used a similar program successfully for years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.</p>
12/18/19	<p>I think women should have to register for the draft. I do not think forced service is a good idea. People already complain they didn't sign up to go to war but for free college. If you add to that people that don't want to serve period you are opening a huge can of worms that we don't want opened.</p>
12/18/19	<p>Both men and women should serve sometime in the military. No exceptions. No buying your way out because folks have money. It is the best growing up experience a person can get.</p>
12/18/19	<p>I believe that every able-minded citizen should serve. They would be required after high school graduation (or upon turning 18) to serve 2 years. They can have the choice as to how they serve, whether it be military, national, state or local government. I am the mother and grandmother of both males and females and am in favor of all serving.</p>
12/18/19	<p>1) Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?</p> <p>Yes - Pride in country, pride in self, self confidence, service to a bigger picture, knowledge of what actually happens in the service of your country. A valuable basis for decision making in the future in general and in decisions concerning the country (i.e. voting)</p> <p>2) How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>Need to be involved earlier in people's lives. Starting in elementary school. The current attitude in the educational systems draws AWAY from service. To counter this - active duty and veterans should be making presentations and be available for students for questions. They can cover military history, jobs available, military life, etc. Presentations should be tailored for grade level and should happen yearly with people available for questions, etc starting in Junior High. Junior ROTC programs should be available in school districts and possibly something along the lines of Scouts (i.e. Sea Cadets).</p> <p>3) What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?</p> <p>For those interested but are academically challenged - remedial programs should be available.</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?</p> <p>Make 2 years of some kind of public service MANDATORY. Sometime between graduating from high school and the age of 25 each individual has to sign up for a minimum of two years of service. This does NOT have to be in the military but could be in things like Peace Corp, Conservation Corps, working in a state hospital, etc. Something that is SERVICE to the State or Federal Government (certain specific non-profits could also be included.) No matter the service selected the pay scale and benefits package should be basically the same (with a slight bump and Veterans Benefits to those who select military service). Along with Job Training, pay and benefits those who complete service get two years of training - either community college or a vocational school.</p>

	<p>5) Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Yes. In case of a national emergency it is better to have a plan in place then to try to put one together on the fly.</p> <p>6) Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Yes - EVERYONE (men, women, other) should have to register for selective service. Equal is EQUAL only if it applies to ALL. Since women already serve in most aspects of the military the reasons for NOT having them register are now moot. It also helps pave the way for Mandatory services as noted above.</p> <p>7) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>Yes - see my answers above.</p>
12/19/19	Yes every american should serve, whether it be military or Red cross or public service. Thanks Bill Albart 101st airborne Drafted 1971 Vietnam. Proud to have served. Would give young adults accountability and purpose in life
12/19/19	All citizens should serve in one way or another. Like they do in Switzerland.
12/19/19	Selective Service Registration for all. Yes, I believe we still should have the draft contingency, however, I feel women should also register for the draft. In this day and age, women are crying out for equality, so be it. They can register too. By the way, I am a female veteran of the US Air Force.
12/19/19	I served at a time when conscription was the law of the land. Many in our country did not support the national policy to suppress communism. I chose to serve three years in the us army engineers to build rather than to destroy. I am proud of my service to our nation. I think all able bodied men and women should be trained to support and defend our country. There is a job for most anybody and you grow up some in the process. I received benefit of my service experience well beyond the actual years of military service. If we are going continue with the American Dream, We must be always be prepared to protect and defend our country. Civic duty, I mean being an educated voter, and public service should be better taught in our schools.
12/19/19	Many young men/women have chosen to receive a GED rather than a traditional HS diploma. This in no way makes them inferior to others. However, when trying to enlist on active duty they are denied that right. They can however enlist in the National Guard. Then the Guard unit gets deployed to a combat zone where they serve along side the "privileged" active duty soldiers. In my opinion if one is good enough to serve, then the type of diploma should not be a barrier to enlistment.
12/19/19	<p>I am writing to ask that the mandatory selective service registration for men ages 18 to 26 be abolished. This is a discriminatory practice and men should not have to register in order to be eligible for federal financial aid or be eligible for federal jobs. The punishment of prison for not registering is excessive and an intrusion on the due process everyone is entitled to as a United States Citizen.</p> <p>Women want to be equal and have fought for that right so now all women shouldstand behind the abolishment of this archaic law that only requires men to register.</p>

	<p>Military service should be on a volunteer only basis and there should be no discrimination on what any individual can sign up for. To increase participation, the government should pay Military personnel a minimum of \$100,000 a year</p>
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12/19/19	<p>I'm a retired USAF E-7 serving from 1971 to 1992 in an avionics maintenance field. I was in a field that had not previously been open to female airman and was skeptical and found it difficult to change what could only be described as locker room behavior normally practiced in the workplace. Over time my perception and attitude changed. I found some of my female coworkers quite competent and a few even aggressively competitive. Eventually I even ended up with a female squadron commander whom to this day I still think of her as one of the most outstanding officers I've ever served with. I believe selective service registration is still needed under our current method of getting things done but believe there is a better way to get to where we need to be. Women should be part of it as well. As far as how to attract and acquire persons with critical skills the services already have a system in place that could be expanded (ROTC Scholarships). The main problem with this is that it is in direct competition with other government backed education loans with no requirement for Government service. Smart young people take advantage of Government backed educational loans and get degrees in critical skills areas and are for the most part snatched up with good paying corporate jobs. Most young people seem to go for much easier degrees in the hopes that they are the one in thousands that end up in a good position and when that doesn't happen end up with a lifetime of student debt. I believe the government should only back loans for students pursuing degree programs in critical skills and there should be a requirement to serve (not necessarily in the military) for a number of years in exchange for debt forgiveness. If they fail to serve they must pay back the loan in full with interest. I believe the ration for forgiveness should be 1 year service for each year of school. And of course they should receive a regular paycheck as well during their service. If corporate recruiters need people out of college let them canvas for candidates and local high schools and foot the bill for college themselves. All others not pursuing critical skills can either pay their own way or should be offered assistance to attend a vocational/technical school. I also like the idea of mandatory civil service as well. All citizens should be familiar with how government works and know what government has to offer.</p>
12/19/19	<p>I'm a female social worker, and I work with homeless veterans. Growing up I always felt it was unfair that women were not required to register for the Selective Service, and I fully intended to register when I turned 18 until I learned it would not be permitted. However, at this point I feel before women are required to register, the Equal Rights Amendment needs to pass. Furthermore, I do feel there should be other options for serving, possibly as civilian government employees or nonprofit agencies like Americorps or the Peace Corps, and I would support a requirement for service for all citizens.—Andrea Giese-Sweat, LCSW</p>
12/19/19	<p>Yes, service has an inherent value. It helps to create that mixing pot of people that might not otherwise have to live/work together. It also reinforces the value to Citizenship and voting. Being registered for the draft should be required of all persons (regardless of gender identity) - we still need a pool from</p>

	<p>which to draw in emergencies. Service (military, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach for America) should be mandatory for all, allowing education deferments, but not waivers. Waivers would be very limited -- for those who are so physically or mentally handicapped that they cannot serve in any form. Voting and social benefit programs would require satisfactory completion of this mandatory service (refusing to work at the assignment is not satisfactory completion). Service would be for one year after completion of necessary training. I voluntarily served in the military for 20 years -- it opened my naive eyes. I also worked for FEMA and now do volunteer work as a full-time job in my retirement age.</p>
12/19/19	<p>It has long been my belief that National Service should be a prerequisite for full Citizenship and the right to vote and run for any office.</p>
	<p>As a retired Air Force veteran of more than 21 years, I believe that all able-bodied males must be a member of the military as a mandatory requirement at the age of 18 for a minimum of four years. Those who are deemed not able-bodied must go through extensive testing/review to determine that fact to be true. I voluntarily enlisted into the military right when the Vietnam War ended, when I graduated from high school. I did not have to enlist and I did not have a previous draft number.</p> <p>If we had mandatory military enlistment for males, we in all probability could greatly reduce the criminal and gang activity we have been experiencing. We could see young males with a greater personal responsibility for their actions and a greater respect for authority. We could see less violent crimes, less drug use, less single parent homes, less homelessness, better mentors, better job training, etc.</p> <p>There should not be exemptions or excuses for military service because of a conscientious objector, or a college student, or a pro sports person, or any able-bodied person. It must be mandatory.</p> <p>As far as females go, yes, they should also have mandatory military training too. However, they should only occupy the less physically demanding positions than what a male would occupy. There are huge differences between male and female physiology and physicality. Some positions are physically demanding and require the strength of a male to perform properly.</p>
12/19/19	<p>I could go on and get more detailed about my previous comments and add even more, but I will end my comments now.</p>
	<p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? YES!! Why, in this age of "equality", is it not a requirement for BOTH genders to sign up for selective service? Why does my son HAVE to sign up, or lose certain benefits, but daughter gets off "scott free"? How is this fair or equal? As a male, I signed up, as required, but also voluntarily served in the military for 22+ years. So, I can see both sides of the coin, as per se, from a veteran point of view and a father's point of view with a son and daughter. Either make it a requirement for both, or eliminate the program entirely.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, SOME type of required service for all would be beneficial, as most 18 year olds don't have a real planned path and putting a couple of years into some type of federal service helps one become more mature as they are involved in situations that require adult decision making processes. Lifetime benefits!!</p>
12/19/19	<p>Thank you for your time.</p>

12/19/19	All American citizens should Be required to serve at least 4 years in the US military. And yes women should be required to sign up for selective service just like the men are. Personally I believe that unless you served this country in the military branches you should not be able to hold any government position in this country including Congress, the president, the vice president or any judicial position.
12/19/19	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? Service has an intrinsic and inherent value to the individual and to the society. The act of service provides fulfillment, connection, and skills to the individual and provides much needed services to the public. Whether that service comes in the form of participation in the military, volunteer fire service, or providing meals to the elderly through a faith-based charity the connection of the individual to the community is expanded and the inclusion of all the participants in the society is increased.</p> <p>In that sense, a mandatory service requirement for all Americans is necessary, valuable, and feasible. At 48 years old, I am part of the first generation not to face the prospect of being drafted into service to fight for my country. Instead I chose to serve in the Navy for 24 years, but other friends and classmates did not make the same choice. As a result, we now have a generation of leaders in our country that have no point of reference of service to the country. In most cases, they have spent their entire adult lives as part of the corporate or manufacturing world. As a result, the lens through which they view government service is skewed and unrealistic.</p> <p>I strongly believe that some form of service, whether that's in the foreign service, the armed forces, or at the state or local level, is a critical part of developing a citizen that appreciates and participates in our republic.</p>
12/19/19	My name is Phillip Templin, I served 21 yrs.(2 Army- 19 National Guard), I believe all Americans male and female should be required to register with select services. I also believe that all should be required to serve 2 yrs. in the branch of their choice straight out of high school. This will shorten readiness time in the event of draft. With the state of the world we need to be in a continual state of readiness.
12/19/19	I am a thirty plus year veteran and have long thought that eliminating the draft, while serving the military well, was not good for our nation. Serving gives one a sense of pride, whether for a two year hitch or as a career. I do not believe that the military is necessarily the answer for all, in fact, we couldn't take that many individuals. But a National Service Program, requiring ALL persons who leave high school, either by graduation or quitting, should immediately go into the NSP. A basic training program followed by a short technical (plumbing, electrical, nurses aide, etc) training course then the balance of two years serving our nation at VA hospitals, National Parks, etc. Of course, opting for the military is also a path to public service. I believe this will build a sense of national pride in our youth, enable them to mature before venturing into life, and give them the opportunity to be part of a team. All 18 year old persons must serve, unlike the military draft. Unless disabled so severely as to be unable to function, we should allow all people to serve. If a young lady is pregnant, then a delay should be granted, but then mother and child can be together after with the child cared for as part of the training program for childcare givers. Once the individuals are graduated from technical training, then they can provide services we are unable to afford in federal organizations, or displace current employees. The loss of full time jobs will be more than compensated by jobs necessary to run the program. A very limited program that exempts exceptional students that are entering into extremely demanding educational programs, i.e. medical doctors. At all costs exemptions for wealthy or influential persons must be avoided. This was a major issue with the military draft.
12/19/19	In a time where women desire equality with men I feel that they should be compelled to also register for Selective Service the same as men. I know it has been proposed in the past and it should be proposed again. Thank you. Christopher Hess
12/19/19	1.Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? - I believe it does have value; not only to our Nation, but to the individual. It gives a sense of belonging to something greater than one's self.

	<p>6.Are modifications to the selective service system needed? If the selective service system is continued modifications to include females should be added. We (women) have been granted so many opportunities in the military to perform in traditionally male roles. The same can be said for the public sector where women have succeeded in roles never before held by them. If we are to be equal we should be equal in all things.</p> <p>7.Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, I believe a mandatory service requirement should be necessary. Again, it would promote a National inclusiveness rather than the exclusiveness we say there is so much of currently. There is always a need for service in the military, national, or public arenas and compatible work could be found for most anyone capable.</p>
12/19/19	Yes, renew the Draft.
12/19/19	I think the draft should be brought back into the fold. I do not think women should be drafted. I do believe they should have the right to join the military just like everyone else does. I also believe women should be trained seperately from men. Have the same training but seperate, this will cut down on sexual assaults and rapes I do believe. When I say training I am just talking about basic training and advanced individual training (AIT) only and they should have female drill instructors just like the men do. Go through the same training as the men but seperately and with female instructors. I also believe this might cut down on the prison population in America also. A lot of guys I grew up with was headed for a life of crime and the military saved them from prison. They went into the service and it changed their lives for the better, I was one of those people on the wrong side of the road and the military saved me. So bring the draft back and it will save people and money.
12/19/19	<p>Having grown up on military bases, attending DOD schools and then serving for 24 years, I believe all Americans should serve our country in some way. Whether at the local, county, state, federal levels or in the military, I believe our citizens need this in order to value what it means to be a citizen. Additionally, it would provide a paid internship for high school graduates and provide a transferrable skill for the civilian job market.</p> <p>I also believe the Constitution needs to be taught in every grade - what it says, what it meant to say at that time to include changes in interpretation due to language evolving and what it should mean to every American. All Americans should know it like the back of their hand</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/19/19	Mandatory should be looked at closely, personally as a vet I think it's a good idea. It allows a youngster to become an adult and learn how important our great country is and why it should be defended.
12/19/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes, our military keeps our nation and its citizens free. We also defend nations who are unable to defend themselves.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? We need to reach out to schools, start young. Use social media, movies, cartoons, Lego, whatever it takes to make military personnel appear like superheroes. My dad served, my husband served, they are my superheroes. Study what children think of the military. Change the image. Our nation is spoiled and removed from the true cost of war. Let's find a way to start dialogue.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Perception from parents who don't often want their kids to go to war because they may come back hurt or even die. As well as overall selfishness that the Greatest Generation did not have. We need our government to inspire our nation to work together.</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? Reach out to colleges, high schools, look for the skill-set before individuals become embattled with consumer or college debt.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes. And as a woman, I think women should be part of the draft, too.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, add women.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Necessary, no. Valuable yes. Feasible, maybe.</p>
12/19/19	Federal and public service has critical inherent value. Service introduces an experience, dedication, focus and discipline that is something greater than one's self.
12/19/19	I am a Vietnam veteran with real-world experience with the Draft. I do not believe the draft or a draft contingency has any role to play in a nation where "freedom" is the highest objective of our entire governmental and social structure. Our selective service system should be abolished. The greatest barrier to participation in today's American military is the continuation of unnecessary, and unnecessarily cruel and destructive, wars. Young people are all too aware of the problems with moral injury from war leading to mental anguish and, in far too many cases, suicide. If America abandons its imperialism and returns to kindness, benevolence, and caring for our fellow men, I believe many young people would volunteer. Military action should be the last resort, not the first resort. Our country needs to return to a focus on constructive contributions to the world's good, not destruction.
12/19/19	Service in the military or Peace corps or something comparable should be mandatory for 2 years. It would give our young people a different look on life.
12/19/19	Yes we should have mandatory military service. Just look around this nation and what do you see, two generations of social misfits, the most anti-American generations ever. They have no respect for this country and what it took to make it so great. They march around suppressing free speech and demanding the government take care of their every whim. It's time to put a end to this
12/19/19	Service to Country should be a requirement for every US Citizen. Every young American should be required to give 2 years Service anytime between their 18th and 30th birthdays. This commitment could be fulfilled either in the military or in an 'accredited' volunteer service organization, such as VISTA, Peace Corps, Volunteer.gov, etc. There are many benefits to both the Country, and America's Youth, ie: less pressure on every high school graduate to proceed direct to college, allowing fuller development of career concepts; developing a true sense of commitment to Country; a consistent pool of energetic volunteers to make our Country better, and on and on.
12/19/19	Draftee is a duty; volunteer is not the same. I enlisted voluntarily for reason's other than "to just get it over (pending possible draft)". Great societal experience with the ranks full of draftee's from all segments of what makes US so unique. @ We The People. I support some form of National Service.

12/19/19	<p>1.Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes, the military teaches individuals to value their fellow American. No matter their race, religion or background.</p> <p>2.How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Fight for better benefits for military veterans and retirees. Better healthcare options and education benefits that transition to the civilian sector.</p> <p>3.What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? I feel the barriers to public service are monetary. I very much wanted to serve the PaciCorp and AmeriCorps but I have a mortgage and at the time did not have family support to offer assistant.</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? Relates to question 2 and 3.</p> <p>5.Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes, I being a woman who served believe woman should be required to register as well.</p> <p>6.Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Refer to question 5.</p> <p>7.Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? I believe we need to empower our young Americans entering into adulthood by mandating public service or college/trade. Meaning if you do not plan to attend college or trade school you are mandated to serve in public service for 2 years. This would serve as an eye opening experience and life lessons for young Americans to start their career paths. We live in a society where everyone gets a trophy weather or not you achieved a goal, this is going to be a down fall to our society.</p>
12/19/19	<p>EVERY ABLE BODIED INDIVIDUAL should serve in some capacity of public service. Any physical deferments MUST be confirmed by agencies or branch of service medical personnel. NO diagnoses from private sector Medical professionals should be accepted. The requirement should be divided into a number of categories, which could include any number of reasons someone is excluded. Too many of today's military personnel are burdened with TOO MANY DEPLOYMENTS !!</p> <p>USMC Vietnam Vet!</p>
12/19/19	<p>Hello, As a former member of the Military and one that joined near the end of the Draft period and before the All-Volunteer military began, I feel that my time in the military helped me grow as a person and an American. I was stationed in Germany when I was overseas and saw how they got people in their military and I feel we should adopt a similar method. After Highschool it was mandatory for every Graduate to serve in either the Military, National or Public (M, N & P) service where they will have to learn to live on their own away from home and be exposed to other ways of making a living. When I graduated from high school I didn't really know what I was going to do, but the Military gave me directions in what I liked and followed that direction. Also, the military had the GI Bill that helped me continue my education. So, my conclusion would be that for a minimum of 2 years in some sort on M, N & P service and then help pay for (or free) Collage.</p>
12/19/19	<p>Every American, man and woman, in the age group 18 to 21 should serve in the military or other national service for a period of 1 to 2 years. Perhaps 1 year is too short - maybe 18 months is the right length of time.</p> <p>What it would do for each individual and for America is instill a feeling, a sense of duty, and an understanding of their blessing to live in the freest country in</p>

	<p>the world and they would leave that service with a feeling of an obligation to the Stars and Stripes.</p> <p>What I found out after serving in the military for 21 years is that it brought out the 'best' in 95% of the inductees and the 'worst' in the remaining 5% - a manageable ratio.</p> <p>There is no question in my mind that having a program of national service would help mitigate many of the social problems that proliferate America and would engender a greater love and appreciation for the country they live in.</p>
12/19/19	<p>The very fiber of our American society has been stolen by the public education system. A mandatory service requirement which teaches respect for one-another's thoughts and opinions without going into combative mode is required. Structure of life itself with its responsibilities to oneself, family and community will instill pride and proper direction of energies compatible with society, leaving them with a true desire to responsibly earn their way through life, and begin to restore the American fiber - one thread at a time. People NEED to work, so skills will be taught and life management learned. Hire veterans, who know how to serve because they've been there, to be in the front line trenches with these people. Necessary - yes, valuable - absolutely, feasible - the loss of our American fiber that literally holds this country together demands it be feasible, even if started in some small way and let it spread thread-by-thread throughout the greatest experiment attempted by man, in this republic - the United States of America. And if we thank and bless God for His goodness on our country, He will bless us.</p>
12/19/19	<p>As a two tour VietNam Veteran who was not drafted but volunteered to serve thanks to my hero President John F. Kennedy. I read your recommendations and say all of them should be implemented to the point that all men and women should be allowed and required to register for service. And if for what ever reason be it objection to serving in the military or be other reasons be it physical that they should be given other choices to serve. Like civilian support staff for the military or the veteran community as to their abilities.</p>
12/19/19	<p>After 30 years of service, I was forced to retire from the Reserves. I wanted to serve longer and still do as a Retired Reservist. Some of my motivation inherent, some from my family members who served in WWII and hearing their stories and see the reverence others gave them even when I didn't understand it all.</p> <p>Regarding your questions 7 on service requirements for all Americans: I suggest a 1 year minimum mandatory service between the ages of 18 and 23. This service can be satisfied through service in the military, law enforcement, fire safety, emergency responders and even park services who are very understaffed. The park service option may appeal to those that are concerned with environment and climate issues. Perhaps other government agencies would be appealing and educational for the participants. Care should be taken to not place participants in positions that support a single political ideology.</p> <p>Hope that helps a little.</p>
12/19/19	<p>This must be done. If you are not a citizen and want to become one you must serve 2 years in the military from age of 18 to 30. Every one that is a United States citizen should serve 2 years in military service. Regardless of religion, status color, creed, sex.</p> <p>There is a price for freedom and a privilege to be a citizen of the United States.</p>
12/19/19	<p>I believe all young people, men and women should do a total of 6 obligated years of service for their country. 4 yrs active service in some capacity or non-military service and 1 yr reserve w/ 2 wks active summer camp and 1 yr inactive status before receiving full discharge paperwork. All should have to do 8 to 10 weeks basic training and all be tested for MOS possibilities. I believe this would solve a lot of the problems of some young people who do not know what</p>

they want to do after graduating from High School. I was totally deaf in my left ear from birth and yet at the age of 20, I was drafted during the Vietnam War and went through basic training and was sent by troop ship to South Korea to serve for 15 1/2 months, Although trained in switchboard maintenance repair, was ultimately given OJT to be a switchboard operator, funny, a one eared switchboard operator. I am now totally deaf, but do hear through a Cochlear Implant Hearing System. I am proud to be a Veteran and to have had the opportunity to serve my country.

I think one of the worst things the government ever did was to get rid of the draft system we had. Whether you were conscripted or joined you learned teamwork. If sent to another country, you learned about the people and how their ways differed from ours. Yes, you longed to be home with your family, but you did your service and when done went home. Yes, I say bring back the draft for all.

Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes, it is an opening for training and education to better ourselves and position in life. It also allows you to gain experiences that otherwise may not have been available to you, i.e. How to deal with differing personality types in a professional and polite manner; Experiences pertaining to those outside of one's immediate community that opens your eyes to the world around you, in turn making you thankful for where you came from and the advantages that were available to you.

How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? The principles and ideals of service I believe are learned from those in your community, be they through example or a bunch of us old farts trading stories of our time in service.

What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Lack of knowledge and apathy on the part of a percentage of the population, as well as a lack of PT.

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? Educating the general public. Use the ASVAB and open its results in such a manner that it can be used by both as a determination for higher education and employment, i.e. A person wants to know what opportunities are available to them that they would be successful in; or a business/institution wants to verify that a candidate has the essential base abilities present for training/education to be successful in their environment. One possible avenue of increasing awareness and participation would be through a summer camp program for youths (3 programs, a junior high/middle school, high school and college age groups.) that include PT, basic self defence, survival skills, the sciences and other skills not readily available through public education in order to mentor and teach individual and team skills. The mentors would need to be able to make it an engaging and fun mini-bootcamp for the intended age group as well as meet the needs and desires of the surrounding communities.

Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes.

Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, I am a firm believer in equality of opportunity, nor should we as a nation ignore half the population. Not all needs are combat related, most pertain to logistics/support.

12/19/19

	Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Necessary, no; valuable, yes in times of emergency; feasibility would be questionable, dependent on current circumstances and available resources at the time of the event.
12/19/19	<p>I would like to open by saying that I believe that service is a democratic responsibility to the nation. I feel strongly about two areas of this Commission's work in particular. The first is on the issue of the draft. I believe strongly that the draft is an immoral practice that should not apply to anyone, regardless of gender. Forcing someone to enter harm's way without their willing consent violates their personal freedoms at the most fundamental level. To be clear: the government has the right to mandate action. However, the government should not be able to force someone to give their life - or to take the life of another - without their consent. Simply allowing a caveat for conscientious objection is not sufficient because, as it stands, declaring as a conscientious objector is insufficient to classify oneself as such. Simply put: women should not be drafted, because nobody should be drafted.</p> <p>The second aspect that I feel strongly about is that of national service. As a former participant in national service, I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary impact that it can have on the nation. However, there remain several barriers to national service. The first is the size of the program - far more people have a desire to serve than are able to serve. In addition, national service lacks the awareness and prestige of military service, despite being a viable alternative for civic engagement for those who do not wish to or are not able to serve in the military. Increasing its viability, especially for highly skilled individuals, would require both more awareness and more available positions. Increasing the reward for non-military national service to bring it more in alignment with military service would help make it a more respected institution. Increasing the living allowance hides the fact that the living allowance is set at the poverty line, which is itself far too low to be accurate. However, exempting the education award from taxable income and increasing it to bring it more parallel, if not identical to, the GI Bil, would be hugely helpful. I also believe that justice-involved citizens should have more pathways available to them through national service, and that such pathways will reconnect disconnected youth to civic systems while simultaneously empowering them to take charge of their lives. I am intrigued by the idea of encouraging companies to allow their employees to take an extended leave of absence to serve - a year is a significant period, but VISTA Associates serve over the summer and could be an excellent pilot partnership. Incentivizing public and private bodies to recognize national service would be deeply valuable in raising awareness of a program that, more than ever, is critical to the nation.</p>
12/19/19	I served in the Army from 1972 until my retirement in 2009, all in the medical field. All of my education was either thru the GI Bill or Army scholarships during that time. I have never had a student loan. I have long believed that some form of national service should be a requirement for all Americans, regardless of gender. It doesn't have to be the military as there are numerous opportunities within other local, state & federal organizations that one could serve with honor & perhaps even learn a marketable skill set. I think those that do serve should be afforded a stipend, housing allowance, and at least 2 years of education after their service. Much like the original GI Bill, I believe this would create a boom in the industrial, manufacturing, and service sectors of our economy. Truly it would be a win-win for all involved. Those that do serve would not only gain the education, training, and experience but also the pride that comes with having served something greater than yourself.
12/19/19	What ever we give the military, hardware or liveware, they will use. I am a Vietnam Vet, one of the 500,000 in the initial 1965 draft. They completely used 58,000 of them for no good reason, just to kill 2 million Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians. How can we make sure that they will use future liveware for a good reason?
12/19/19	I believe all people should serve including male and female and all should be registered for the draft. I joined the U.S. Army when the draft was still in force because I believed in my country. The skills, discipline and the diversity I learned about was quite valuable.

	Larry DellaRocco [REDACTED]
12/19/19	<p>Its absolutely essential that our youth serve our nation and world in a capacity that exemplifies our beliefs in freedom and service to the community, nation, and the planet. This requirement of service from our citizens, whether male, female, or neither must be an intergal part our being.</p> <p>I'm concerned about this from two perspectives. The first is that since the ending of the draft in 1971, we have created the larva of a mercenary military; one that's a separate caste in our society. So far, our military leaders have demonstrated, through the Trump presidency, true faithfulness to our constitution. They have placed country above politics and career. Great Americans; but with following generations the risk is much greater.</p> <p>The second perspective has to do with our citizens having "skin-in-the-game". If we don't all participate, we lose our sense of togetherness, the glue that binds us together.</p> <p>I propose service for all which might be either military or civilian (with very, very few exceptions). There are several key elements; one is the amount of time to be served...I'd put that at somewhere between 2 and 3 years. This allowing for a training period for the individual followed by doing the work (the payback period). Another element is age. I'd suggest beginning anywhere from 18 to 25, meaning out of high school to out of college. A third element is salary; this should be based on skill demonstration and risk of physical danger. Finally, the deployment would be subject to 'family status'; married with children would be local, and so on.</p> <p>I've seen so many times how our youth get themselves into trouble because of lack of suitable direction and discipline. We'd get a huge payback if we instituted service for all.</p> <p>Sincerely, William Moody Vietnam Veteran, and former Captain, US Army</p>
12/19/19	<p>The military draft is a direct violation of an individual's right to life, the fundamental right identified in the Declaration of Independence. A right that 10's of thousands of Americans have died protecting. The only proper function of government is to protect man's rights. Forcing men and women to sacrifice their lives is clearly unconstitutional.</p> <p>A volunteer military is the only proper way to defend a free country. There never has been nor ever will be a shortage of volunteers to fight a just war. Only a draft can make wars like Vietnam possible.</p>
12/20/19	<p>I believe firmly that we need new solutions to handling conflicts which do not involve putting the bodies of our young people in harms way. I believe that adraft registration should be ended for everyone and not extended to women</p> <p>I seek the ending and overturning of all criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register, including those currently living under these penalties</p> <p>I sincerely hope that national service will remain voluntary because compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society</p>
12/20/19	<p>I was almost selective at the end of the draft in nam. I joined to get a education and serve in the branch I wanted.</p> <p>As far as I know we have not drafted from the 1974. Using the draft registration I is old. We stopped it after ww1. We had no issue starting it back up for ww2. It is a very old fiction and is only carried on to please Congress and government personnel. Vote stop the draft. Thanks for letting me have my say.</p>

12/20/19	<p>I strongly feel bring the registry and draft back to all would lessen the crime and drug and more respect to our flag and country there is too many young people that think we own them something Being in the Military Discipline and the strength that I have today .</p>
12/20/19	<p>House Resolution 5492, introduced by a Republican and a Democrat, is the proper bi-partisan response to all of your questions. I urge your Commission to recommend to Congress its immediate passage of this bill. The complete elimination of the so-called "Selective Service" Act will enable the United States to make decisions about public service within an atmosphere in which service is exactly that: service. Anything which is compulsory or coercive is not service at all. People do want to serve, but we need to get clear that service is voluntary, not forced. Conscription, or even the threat of conscription, is not service but rather servitude, and has no place among a free people. H.R. 5492 has all the elements needed to lift public service out of the mire of conscription and raise it to the level which will draw upon the most aspirational of our citizens and other residents.</p>
12/20/19	<p>Friends...</p> <p>Given that our draft system is outdated, unhelpful, unneeded, unused for nearly 40 years, and a waste of our taxpayer dollars and your efforts, I strongly encourage you to make a recommendation that Congress enact H.R. 5492. I ask you to make this recommendation because doing so would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeal the Military Selective Service Act; 2. Abolish the Selective Service System; 3. Prohibit all other Federal agencies from imposing civil sanctions for nonregistration or using nonregistration as a basis for other adverse determinations; 4. "Preempt" all state sanctions for nonregistration; and 5. Preserve the rights of conscientious objectors under other laws and regulations. <p>Simply put... it is time to leave this albatross of draft registration behind. Should there ever be a need for compulsive service--which in today's warfare scenarios is highly doubtful--we would be able to leverage our technology at the time. The world has changed... let's stop wasting your energy and our money.</p> <p>Thank you, Enten Eller</p>
12/20/19	<p>From my own experience, Basic Training taught me to care for myself and others. It teaches leadership and self reliance.</p> <p>Basic Training would teach the youth of today to be less selfish and teach social skills so that they might be able to communicate with others verbally instead of texting.</p>

	<p>Not everyone should go to college. There are many opportunities in the military to find a career field that is suited to the individual.</p>
12/20/19	<p>Yes, military service does have inherent value. If we didn't have a strong, trained military force, other nations would invade and conquer us. To increase the desire of young Americans to serve, raise the pay, and staff ships and shipyards adequately so Navy personnel don't have to work six or seven days a week in peacetime. Fix the Veterans Administration's medical care so veterans with health problems get treated promptly and don't have to travel more than 100 miles for care. Put better arch support in military boots to support the heavy loads soldiers carry on patrol. Offer or pay for training in critical skills in return for x number of years of service as payback, offer generous enlistment bonuses for persons who already possess those skills, and don't be too fussy about height/weight/age requirements.</p> <p>Yes, a draft or draft contingency is necessary, in case we get into a major war, but the selective service ought to include women as well as men. A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is neither necessary nor feasible. The Army is on the path to meeting its 2019 recruitment goals without any such requirement. Not everybody could serve, even if they wanted to. Some people are single parents, or are drug users, or criminals, or are mentally or physically handicapped, or don't speak English, or are otherwise undesirable.</p>
12/20/19	<p>Every body who has reached the age of 18 and/or completed high school should be required to spend at least two years in service to the country in a where needed place. In the case of a non high school graduate, they should be required to get a GPD before leaving service. And should then be required to spend two additional years to fulfill their service to the country</p> <p>All draftees should be able to select where they would like to serve and what part of of the government they would like to serve in. If there is a real need someplace, their choices should be overridden and they should go where needed.</p>
12/20/19	<p>Every body who has reached the age of 18 and/or completed high school should be required to spend at least two years in service to the country in a where needed place. In the case of a non high school graduate, they should be required to get a GPD before leaving service. And should then be required to spend two additional years to fulfill their service to the country</p> <p>All draftees should be able to select where they would like to serve and what part of of the government they would like to serve in. If there is a real need someplace, their choices should be overridden and they should go where needed.</p>
12/21/19	<p>Dear Chairman Heck and Members of the Commission,</p> <p>As you know, I submitted testimony to the Commission on April 12, 2019, arguing in favor of disbanding the Selective Service System (SSS) altogether. Today I am submitting to the Commission bipartisan legislation I have introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives: H.R. 5492, an "Act to repeal the Military Selective Service Act (MSSA) and thereby terminate the registration requirements of such Act and eliminate civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System."</p> <p>I urge the Commission to recommend that the SSS be disbanded and repealed, use H.R. 5492 as a legislative roadmap for achieving this goal, and include this bill as part of your legislative proposals in your March 2020 Final Report. This legislation, which I have introduced with Republican Congressman Rodney Davis, has a history of bipartisan support. In 2016 I co-led this legislation with former Republican Congressman Mike Coffman, who introduced this legislation in prior years as well.</p>

In H.R. 5492, I have maintained the legislative text of our 2016 legislation and added the following important updates: 1) A federal preemption provision to ensure there is uniform protection from sanctions or prosecution in all U.S. states and territories against individuals who did not register with the SSS prior to H.R. 5492 becoming law; 2) A provision to ensure that individuals cannot be denied U.S. citizenship for “lack of good moral character” for having failed to register with the SSS; and 3) A provision ensuring that the federal protections for conscientious objectors included in the MSSA are maintained following the passage of H.R. 5492. You can find the legislative text my bipartisan bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5492>

As I explained in my previous testimony to the Commission: the Pentagon, Republican and Democratic administrations, and Congress have consistently agreed there is no military or national security imperative to reinstate the draft. I learned this firsthand during the Carter administration while serving as a congressional aide to Oregon Congressman Jim Weaver, when I obtained a draft copy of then-SSS Director Bernard Rostker’s report stating that draft “registration was redundant and unnecessary.” Congressman Weaver entered this report, which the Carter administration tried to hide, into the Congressional Record.

What we already knew in the 1970s is still true today: the SSS is an unnecessary, unwanted, archaic, wasteful, and potentially unconstitutional program whose funding could be better spent on encouraging and enhancing public service or reducing our federal deficit.

Thank you for your consideration. Again, I urge the Commission to disband the SSS and use H.R. 5492 as a legislative solution to repeal this program.

Sincerely,

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Dear Commission,

Service has the inherent value of teamwork and patriotism. Young Americans see increasing property damage, billions lost every year, due to severe storms, increased wildfires, increased pollution. America is a farming nation, yet agriculture is currently in danger of severe droughts and floods. A national regenerative farming program getting young people trained in hemp farming, crop rotation, ranching, and hemp manufacturing would both help the environment and protect our national resources. This would do more to prevent global warming than bickering about carbon emissions. Train young people to be social entrepreneurs. The family farm is the back-bone of the American economy. Get young people out of the cities and give them a public service option like the National Guard, but never deployable abroad. As employees of the conservation corps or other programs, young people could qualify for publically funded healthcare. Especially, if the public health service corp is expanded. If we built medical centers with teaching hospitals in strategic areas, we could expand health services and decrease healthcare costs. We need more green zones where nature conservation and agriculture can serve as boundaries for natural disaster prone areas. Promote this program as a guaranteed employment program for high school students. Include home economics and personal finance as a cornerstone of education , so young people can make an informed decision for vocational training or college. Also encourage members

12/21/19

	to gain critical skills related to national security. A military draft is not a necessary component of national security. There should not be a mandatory service. Volunteerism is necessary for a free country. Self-sufficient and responsible adults are necessary for a free and functional society. A capitalist country cannot survive, when individuals cannot care for themselves, their land, or their finances.
12/21/19	My comment is in regards to the selective service system. It is my opinion that the selective service system should be abolished and/or changed to a voluntary service system. When I was an 18 year old man, I was proud to register for the selective service system and would have done so even if it wasn't a requirement. My main reason for hoping for the systems abolishment is this, I don't feel that young women should be forced to register. As a father of a daughter, I would be mortified knowing that she could be drafted in the event of a conflict. My daughter is what some would refer to as a "girly girl", I would hate for her to lose that because of a forced draft. I believe that we should protect our women in this country as one of our greatest treasures. In no way do I feel that women are incapable of serving in our armed forces though. This is why I support a volunteer based service system, so that men and women alike can register if they so desire. I feel we have enough patriots in this country that would step up if the need should ever arise. Thank you. - DJ Davis
12/21/19	Roe v. Wade should apply to all men and women, if there is "equal protection under the law". A man's right to Choose should render unconstitutional the Selective Service Act and it's invasion of the right to privacy and bodily integrity of every person. If a woman can defend herself from a fetus, then it follows that all men and women can defend themselves from bullets, bombs and forced labor in an army conducting illegal, unconstitutional, undeclared wars of aggression
12/21/19	Please support H.R. bill 5492 that will end selective service registration.
12/21/19	Please support H.R. bill 5492 that will end selective service registration.
12/21/19	Congress should enact H.R. 5492. The draft is authoritarian and should be eliminated. It has no place on a free society.
12/21/19	The military draft is an unnecessary and inequitable system for fostering military security in the US. The selective service system should be dismantled while it only includes military service and does not include civil society service for all. Please support HR 5492. Thank you.
12/21/19	Please ask Congress to enact H.R. 5492, repealing the Selective Service system. I was forced to register for the draft against my will and over my explicit written objections. Since I understand that all US wars since WWII were wars of choice and of aggression, I am unwilling to participate in that violence. Furthermore, many of them risked starting WWIII, which likely would have involved nuclear weapons and thus killed everyone. Such policies are no way to defend a nation, and I want no president to believe forcing their people to attack others is an option available.
12/21/19	Please recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492 to end draft registration and abolish the Selective Service System.
12/21/19	Please enact bill 5492. Sincerely Shoshana Levinson
12/21/19	No, No, No! No mandatory military service to be a citizen. This is not ancient Rome where the entire economy was based on the slaughter of other peoples. We do not need constant warfare. WE NEED PEACE! The 1% better find a different way to keep the money coming in! OUR LIVES MATTER AS MUCH AS THEIRS DO!
12/21/19	No, No, No! No mandatory military service to be a citizen. This is not ancient Rome where the entire economy was based on the slaughter of other peoples. We do not need constant warfare. WE NEED PEACE! The 1% better find a different way to keep the money coming in! OUR LIVES MATTER AS MUCH AS THEIRS DO!

	<p>1. My military service taught me the value of discipline, tolerance and responsibility to myself as well as to my fellow americans - I believe in my heart JFKs famous words - Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.</p> <p>2. Its starts with civic education at the earliest levels - what does it mean to be a citizen - what are the responsibilities of a citizen. Why should anyone care about public service - teach them young.</p> <p>3. The barriers are cultural and political. Without education there will never be an awareness or real appreciation of the responsibilities we all have as citizens in a free society. Education in primary school and a national public relations campagn similar to the "Don't be a litter bug" in the 1960s. Law and order is not just the responsibility of the police -- its everyones responsibility - especially in a heterogeneous society. Our children need to be taught to have a greater appreciation of the common denominator: the American Democratic experiment. What is required of a citizen in a functioning democratic free society ?</p> <p>4. I believe there should be registration and a draft at age 18 for both young men and women. The period of mandatory service should be 2 years. Upon conscription the boy or girl would have a choice: 1)military service 2) Domestic service - youth core 3) Foreign service - peace core. 2 years of service in one area of choice. For this service the young american would receive a college bill. The benefits of service are many not to mention time to mature and time to give back to fellow americans. This obligation like Vietnam service could be deferred but not avoided by acceptance and entry into college - and for those - the college bill would pay their college tuition cost.</p> <p>5. Yes - Switzerland and Norway are good examples - however they are homogeneous societies which makes it easier politically. The challenge is to get all people who are american citizens regardless of color, race or religion to identify as americans and to appreciate that freedom is not free.</p> <p>6. Yes</p> <p>7. It is necessary and overdue, feasible (with education) and would be extremely valuable to our children, our national self image and our society in general.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity and for your efforts, William Newell, former SGT USMC Vietnam. My cell is 508-439-2243</p>
12/21/19	I hope the politicians and power elite listen as they will be the most reluctant to obligate their children.
12/21/19	<p>recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, To repeal the Military Selective Service Act, and thereby terminate the registration requirements of such Act and eliminate ... the Selective Service System.</p> <p>Does service have inherent value? No, it does not make the United States Safer and they have been fighting overseas without a draft.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Stop the illegal wars and occupations overseas; plenty of Americans will volunteer if a true need develops.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? None, people volunteer all the time.</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? Don't keep everything secret from the American people so we will want to contribute to the needs of the nation.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No, plenty of folks voluntarily enlist without it in 40 years.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes - it needs to be repealed and abolished per the Congressional legislation introduced Dec 2019 mentioned above</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No. Every American contributes to the country in his or her own ways every day.</p> <p>With current and former members of the military in our family, my family and I support repeal and abolishment of Selective Service, military conscription, draft registration, preparations for a military draft, and Federal and state punishment of draft registration resisters. This is good for every American to be free to choose their own destiny. Tens of millions of Americans contribute daily to the United States of America without being forced to do so, outnumbering those on the Federal payroll today. I appreciate your consideration of my comments. Thank you.</p>
12/21/19	<p>I am a female who served in the Navy from 1985-1995. I do feel there is still a need for a selective service in case of war or a disaster such a nuclear weapons reaching our shores. That said, one thing I saw in my time in was that a person who serves willingly and voluntarily, as opposed to someone who is drafted or conscripted, make far better workers who can accomplish far more in a shorter time. In short, there is nothing worse than being voluntary active duty and serving with someone who does not want to be there. I did not serve during the draft but I sure served with people who hated service and couldn't wait to get out because they felt they had made a mistake enlisting and would do better as a civilian. So I hope psych testing is used alongside the ASVAB (or whatever is used now) to help people to determine the kind of work they WANT to do, not just what they might be good at. Trust me, they aren't always the same. I was good at being an electronics technician but hated and stressed over it constantly, which led to developing an anxiety disorder and clinical depression. I ended up being medically retired at 10.5 years. I deeply regret my early retirement as I loved serving in the military and am certain had I been a yeoman or other administrative rate, I would have done at least 20 years. So if you are going to force people in; do the best you can to make them the most effective workers they can be by finding out what they want to do, even if you have to resurrect the old Apprentice Training program. Never should have stopped that; could have saved me from making a life-altering bad choice. Best wishes and Merry Christmas, S. Halstead</p>
12/21/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? No. It is too often abused by the government</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It does not need to. The US has been at war since 2003 using an all-volunteer service.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? There are none</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>Train those who already wish to volunteer.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Abolish it.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No.</p>
12/21/19	<p>Get rid of the draft! End the wars! Bring the troops home and remove US bases from foreign countries.</p>
12/22/19	<p>████████████████████ ████████████████████ Email: ████████████████████</p> <p>National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029 Arlington, VA 22202</p> <p>Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2019-01</p> <p>December 23, 2019</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>This is my fifth written submission to the Commission. The first February 19, the second May 28, the third July 4, and the fourth September 21. You may remember that I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft and sent each of you my latest book about war resisters who choose prison.</p> <p>Honestly, I thought I was done. I had expressed my opposition to military conscription and, in fact, to any military at all. We can solve all conflicts by peaceful means, thereby enjoying an economic bounty at home enabling true service of all to their fellow Americans.</p> <p>However, it has come to my attention just yesterday that bipartisan Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rodney Davis (R-IL) have introduced the landmark bill H.R. 5492 in the House on December 20.</p>

H.R. 5492 would:

- Repeal the Military Selective Service Act and its compulsory registration under threat of criminal penalties.
- Abolish the outdated, outmoded, and unnecessary Selective Service System.
- End civil sanctions by Federal agencies currently denying student financial aid, Federal jobs, and citizen naturalization for failure to register.
- Preempt, override, and prohibit current state sanctions for nonregistrants such as denial of divers' licenses, state student loans, benefits, and jobs.
- Ensure the rights of conscientious objector status within the military.

Representatives DeFazio and Davis have made the Commission fully aware of the bill and submitted their recommendation that the Commission make H.R. 5492 part of its submission to Congress in its final report in March 2020.

peace&freedom,

CJ Hinke

Author, Free Radicals: War Resisters in Prison

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

Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? I think it does. You put yourself out there in service to your country. It comes at a cost, one that the person has agreed to pay.

How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Talk about it where young people are and point out how Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister have been serving.

What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Some cannot afford to pay their own way, laws not including women in draft.

How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Keep the promise made to those who already have served for starter. Show more about how the knowledge and skills learned in service can translate to civilian life.

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? Tax breaks to them who serve.

12/22/19

	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Don't we still have groups and cultures that hate america? Don't we still face aggression from other nations, are we not still at war?</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Get women included, overdue.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It should be considered as an option.</p>
12/22/19	I am a veteran and I recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492.
12/22/19	<p>Dear Mr. Heck:</p> <p>The all male selective service was declared unconstitutional LAST February and although it is under appeal, males have still been required to register since then and all this past year. Honestly it is very immoral and wrong. There should have at least been a moratorium on male registration until either the courts or congress resolved the issue. Just because many women don't desire to register is not a reason to continue to only require males to do so, remembering that many males don't desire to do so either but have to or face grave penalties. Have a Merry Christmas and happiest of New Years. With Respect</p>
12/22/19	End the SS. We don't need it anymore!
12/22/19	<p>December 22, 2019</p> <p>We write on behalf of Madison Mennonite Church, Madison, Wisconsin.</p> <p>As members of one of the Historic Peace Churches, we are grateful that the United States recognizes freedom of conscience and makes provisions that recognize our conscientiously held beliefs against participation in war. As Christians, we believe that Jesus' teachings require us to love our enemies, to refuse to respond to violence with more violence, and to act with reverence for all human life since every person is made in the image of God. We believe that these teachings require us to refrain from participation in all war. We are, however, willing to engage in alternative service that does respect and serve humanity, whether in our country or abroad. In light of these conscientiously held views, we recommend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -That no law be passed requiring men and women to serve in the military -That as long as a government Selective Service System exists, it be led by civilians -That protections and programs be maintained for conscientious objectors to the military -That a provision to be identified as a conscientious objector be included at the time of registration with Selective Service -That both federal and state governments refrain from penalizing those who refuse to register with Selective Service for reasons of conscience -That women not be required to register for selective service because we believe that neither men nor women should be required to register for military service. <p>We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you.</p>

	<p>The Leadership Council of Madison Mennonite Church Rev. Valerie Showalter, Pastor Erica Boehr, Church Administrator J. Denny Weaver, Chair, Church Life Committee Jocelyn Milner, Member, Church Life Committee Karen Rahmeier, Member, Church Life Committee</p>
12/22/19	<p>It would make be a miracle to see NCMNPS support H.R. 5492, a bill "To repeal the Military Selective Service Act, and thereby terminate the registration requirements of such Act and eliminate ... the Selective Service System." It is time to give some sense of freedom back to the people of this world, especially in the "freest" country in the world. This bill would recognize this by showing and nudging people towards the idea that they are intrinsically free and defined by their actions solely, not the actions of a overly centralized and therefore corrupt government made up of a few people who have powers that no one should have. This would do so much for the world because it would incentivize peace and cooperation as well as higher levels of critical thinking. These things would mend the social divides between people and allow us to live with even higher levels of prosperity. Please, please do all you can to support this bill and these ideas. Thank you and Happy Holidays! <3</p>
12/22/19	<p>I think that all citizens should go into the military. Women can serve not maybe in combat, but I'm sure that there are many different jobs they can do to give men relief.</p>
12/22/19	<p>The draft as it presently exists is gender-biased in favor of women not being asked to share the burden of registration for the draft, and the penalties for non-compliance. As such, it is an inequitable system and should be abolished immediately.</p>
12/23/19	<p>I put 20 years in the US military. If the current youth of today knew anything about history or read anything, they would know that the Vietnam War was a farce...not my words but the words of The Secretary of Defense McNamara in his book. "We all knew it was a bullshit war we just wanted to show the Russians that we were capable of losing men". Was Smedlet Butler ever right he was a 2 time Medal of Hornor winner USMC Major General later in his life he saw that these were never ending wars and became a pacifist but the Marine Corps would never publicize this, they would rather show you a medieval knight in shining armor in the recruitment commericals. Not that you would be cannon fodder and making billions for overfed fat defense contractors. Don't take Smedley Butler seriously ,he was a misguided Peacenick with TWO Medals of Honor before he wised up. Here are the Democrates who are making law in this country, Bernie Sanders is to the left of Joseph Stalin. Maxine Waters who has tried to instill violence against conservatives is sitting in the house, Pelosi is doing her bestand she's succeeding to turn California into a third world country..No walllet everybody in.....remember what she said ,"NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW", I guess she didn't mean the boarder jumpers, the dreamers, and the mayors and governors who wouldn't apply the laws to their next voting blocks. Now she wants to drop the voting age to 16. Elizabeth Warren is almost as far left as the two aforementioned communists and she wants to abolish the Electoral College... It's not" progressive "enough for her and the Democrates. Thanks to BHO bringing in Somalians. Allah has blessed us with three Muslim congresswomen lets not forget AOC who are anti American.. anticonstitution and anti Semetic and are sympathetic to Mulsim terror groups. That's somewhat the line-up. I have a question for you. If you had a 18-20 year old son in 2019 who you let him enlist in the Marine Corps? I wouldn't. Let's not forget that you still have to register for the draft...but not women (haven't I been told that they are equal to men for the past fifty years) only when it suits them. Bring back the draft it will never happen, only the poor and unemployed will go into the military now.</p>
12/23/19	<p>As a teacher of Catholic ethics, I am writing to encourage the ending of draft registration. Such a requirement is not needed and imposes burdens on the consciences of young people who are opposed to participation in war. Pope Francis has called upon all Catholics to "embrace active nonviolence as a way of</p>

	life" and all recent popes have strongly condemned modern forms of war as being incompatible with Christian values. If any form of registration is continued, there should be an option for those with moral objections to not be required to register. All penalties for non-registration should also be removed.
12/23/19	Please recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492.
12/23/19	I think a national service for all Americans would be a very good way to bridge the political and cultural divide in our country. Serving side by side with Americans from other parts of the country could build unity and unified sense of purpose. Barriers to accomplishing this, however, would be economic. Therefore, requiring all young men and women to do national service (either military, peace corps, or other in-country public service) might be necessary. Requiring women to register would be a start. But other than actually requiring national service, the economic incentive to do so would have to be great--offer college credit, college stipend for time served, offer pay or income incentive, offer college debt reduction for service, etc. Public service enhances the lives of those who serve, broadens their perspective and outlook, builds acceptance and tolerance for others. Public service helps the residents of communities served by offering needed assistance, reducing the need to tax local residents to pay for services that especially under-served populations may not readily be able to afford. As a society, we all benefit from encouraging service by means of economic enhancements and incentives.
12/23/19	I am the spouse of a veteran. Our family has a few veterans. I support H.R. 5492, a bill to repeal the Military Selective Service Act, and thereby terminate the registration requirements of such Act and eliminate the Selective Service System.
12/23/19	This is an additional comment to urge the Commission to recommend adoption of H.R. 5492, a bipartisan bill to end the Selective Service System and punitive measures against those who have not registered for the draft. It has been 46 years since anyone was inducted into the military under the Selective Service System. However, it continues to have severe consequences on many young men of conscience. Although prosecutions are rare, those who do not register are still subject to a 5-year prison sentence. However, the more extensive consequences today are the numerous federal and state punitive non-criminal sanctions against non-registrants, including denial of student aid and of employment. All of these consequences would be ended by the proposed legislation. Furthermore, we are spending money on the Selective Service System even though the budget is not in balance. It is time to end once and for all the practice of forcing young men into the military against their will. It is also time to end the penalties against those whose conscience will not allow them to be part of a system whose ultimate purpose is to kill their brothers and sisters in other countries.
12/23/19	E
12/23/19	The first article I read asked if women should be drafted. Well, if we have a draft system, and I feel we should, then yes, both men and women should be drafted. Let me add that I am a proponent of a national service for everyone after high school. It does not have to be the military. It could be in one of the many service programs, such as VISTA and AmeriCorps. To encourage participation, the nation needs to start with educating young people on the need for such service.

12/23/19	<p>We fought a war around 1863 or so having something to do with slavery. We even amended the constitution to that end. So on what planet would the draft not be slavery of the most vile kind?</p> <p>To that end I insist you get that lazy congress of ours to pass HR 4592.</p>
12/23/19	<p>I think selective service should still be in effect in the US, but that the age requirement should be 21 instead of 18.</p>
12/23/19	<p>I am 82 years old. I refused cooperation with military conscription in 1959, and was active in promoting and organizing draft refusal actions during the Vietnam War, and at the time of reinstatement of draft registration in 1980-81. I advise and urge you to recommend an end to all draft registration requirements, and revocation of all penalties for non-registration in the future and retroactively for all non-registrants presently subject to penalties.</p> <p>I assure you that if you recommend extending registration to women, or creating any kind of mandatory service requirement, I will again be very active in organizing against such proposals, and advocating complete non-cooperation if they are enacted.</p> <p>Sincerely, Karl Meyer, Peaceable Assembly, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>
12/24/19	<p>Here are a couple thoughts on questions 3,4, 5 & 6:</p> <p>3/4 - I am a 23-year veteran of federal public service as a firefighter. My current GS-09 position is with the Bureau of Land Management where I supervise a 25 person helicopter for crew that provides for and aviation Management through out nation. The entry level jobs for my crew are at the GS-04 (series 0462) level, as there is a 90 say experience requirement. Many entry level wildland fire positions are at the GS-03 level. This is not a competitive wage. Even at the GS-04 level, it's below minimum wage in many areas as determined by city or state law. My compensation for 23 years of experience and the amount of responsibility I assume, including for life and limb, is also well below that of a Battalion Chief in a municipal departments. We do the work for many reasons, and money isn't on the list. Public servants know we won't get rich. But wages for federal employees need to at least be competitive. Furthermore, there isn't even a job series for wildland firefighters; I am a "forestry technician." This is a daily slap in the face for thousands of men and women like me who are dedicated and make tremendous sacrifices.</p> <p>5/6 - Yes, the option for a draft should continue for national security contingency. Yes, there needs to be changes. Now that all military positions are open to females, and have been for a few years, draft registration needs to be mandatory for both men and women. As the judge in TX correctly ruled, the current system is pure gender discrimination. With equal access, opportunity and benefits should come equal risk, responsibility and civic duty. It's crazy that in 2020 there is a government sanctioned system that is so gender-based discriminatory, as to have a mandate for males only, with penalties of no federal aid, student loans, federal employment or even imprisonment. Please do the right thing and tell Congress to change this.</p>
12/24/19	<p>Forcing citizens to fight in a war they do not support causes moral injury, poor morale within their unit and lack of accountability for the commander-in-chief. Worst of all it is undemocratic. How can we claim that our wars are fought for the cause of freedom when people are made to participate in them against their own free will? What will cause the military to consider the interests of the people when a seemingly endless pool of soldiers is available despite low approval ratings for a war? It is widely recognized that we have gone to war wrongly in the past and we likely will go to war wrongly in the future. We are unable to vote with a ballot for or against a declaration of war so let us vote with our registration for it (or lack thereof). It is the only truly democratic way.</p>
12/24/19	<p>Please add my name to the letter from the Anabaptists Churches, dated Sept. 13, 2019. The letter is comprehensive and beautifully written. I stand with those thoughts and feelings expressed.</p>

	<p>I am a Quaker, living in Virginia. I grew up in a military family with a war veteran father. I am a writer, public school teacher, and mother to boys, one 20, who was forced to register for Selective Service recently and another who will be soon.</p> <p>In addition to public school, I also teach creative writing to veterans. I have been a peace activist for many years. You may read more about my Quaker beliefs online, and I am happy to answer questions. I attend the Charlottesville Friends Meeting.</p> <p>I continue to pray for our leaders. Thank you registering my letter and for your consideration. Sincerely, Christine E. Black</p>
12/24/19	<p>I was drafted in the early 60s for two years military service then involuntary extend for two more months. When inducted my pay was \$78.00 a month 26 months later it was \$122.50. I quickly learned to live within my means. I got a side job working for the Army Air Force Motion Picture Service at a post theater. Also got my Private Pilots License and on post Flying Club. Later after separation I used the GI Bill to get my Commercial, Instrument and Multi Engine ratings. I see nothing wrong with some sort universal service. Freedom is not free and if you have not served this country in some capacity you have no skin in the game. People graduating from high school today frequently have no direction or marketable skills. I would guess that a lot of the protesters we see today have not served their country in any capacity. Serving your country in some capacity could give them some guidance or direction in life like it did me. In hindsight it was a positive experience. (lemon to lemonade) John W Betz</p>
12/25/19	<p>Memos 1 to 7, I was drafted in 1969, and learned half the world does go to bed hungry. My son had to register for draft prior to applying for College Financial Aid. WHY NOT WOMEN? Are they not capable??? Barriers to serve are shortsighted politicians and arms dealers who will put our citizens at risk, for minimal if any return. I wouldn't volunteer to support our current Republican AND Democrat representative decisions.</p>
12/25/19	<p>Each of the 7 questions presented has been answered in my response below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Service has value. It provides an opportunity for people who are in need of something to be assisted by those who are in service. Service comes in many forms. 2) Many young Americans join the military because of the incentives that come with joining the military, such as free college tuition. 3) One barrier is a disability that a person may have. Another barrier is a person's religious belief that may prevent them from serving in the military. 4) The U.S. has already increased participation by providing incentives, such as offering free tuition to those who participate. 5) The draft is not a necessary component of U.S. national security.

	<p>6) Modifications to the Selective Service System are needed.</p> <p>7) A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable, or feasible.</p>
12/25/19	<p>I would like a mandatory national draft for males, females and people with disabilities there is a job for them all to do. After a basic training, they could then choose a branch of service. I believe it would make a better America, people would understand freedom and that the rule of law is a important to that freedom.</p>
12/26/19	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? I served as a volunteer in the US military during much of the Cold War and believe my service benefited my Nation at the same time it benefited me personally by giving me a sense of purpose, a sense that I was serving a higher cause, that I was doing was important to not only the US, but to the world. Service in the US Armed Forces, the Public Health Service, the Peace Corps, and in political office all share inherent value.</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? The US government must restore the faith of the people and regain their trust. History shows us that recent US presidents have committed significant lies in explaining US policies, especially regarding foreign and military policy. People will not want to serve a government that they cannot trust. The US needs to reconsider its politics and work to create a kinder, gentler society that is inclusive. I don't mean a "great America" that seeks to dominate the world with its huge military or economic might.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? See below for a concept of universal service that would essentially be barrier free.</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? I have given a lot of thought to replacing the current Selective Service with a Universal Service in which ALL AMERICANS, regardless of gender, would register for service that could be fulfilled in various ways to include senior management positions in government at various levels; this would include many positions currently filled by both elected officials and political appointment. Upon registration each America would complete a profile that would indicate their qualifications and interests and these would largely determine which pools they would enter for service. The service would be for different periods in their lives and for differing lengths, all depending on the particular service; for example, if a person expressed an interest in military service while young, they might be selected for three years, whereas government service might be for older Americans who would serve, say four years. Americans could update their profiles as they age, as their interest and qualifications change.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? The draft as we know it should be eliminated. The US has relied too much on its military strength and maintains military forces larger that needed to carry out an enlightened foreign policy.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, as per 4. above.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, highly valuable & feasible.</p>

12/26/19	The draft is too much like slavery - it is forced servitude and brainwashing. It is also stealing time and life from people that they should be free to decide to spend. Never mind what valuable things you think they should be doing with their lives; it's not your decision to make. In a country that purports to value liberty and justice for all, a draft screams hypocrisy.
12/26/19	Just a short note to let you know I believe we should end Draft Registration and the whole concept of a Draft. In the VERY UNLIKELY event we need a large body of soldiers then we can address the issue again. Thank you for considering my thoughts. Ron Simmons Westbury, NY
12/26/19	The only sound defense of liberty is a country full of free people who prize their freedom. The draft weakens and corrupts love of liberty and teaches people that their freedom is nothing but a temporary gift from government.
12/26/19	END THE DRAFT! The military draft, and compulsory national service in general, are contrary to the American ethos. We have the right to live our lives as we please, not in the service of politicians or bureaucrats. Our volunteer military has worked quite well, and the draft tore the country apart 50 years ago when I was of draft age. Let's not make that mistake again!
12/26/19	Draft --- Do NOT impliment a draft except in extreme emergency. Do NOT try to establish national service time for all as that is involuntary servatude. HOWEVER, implimening a draft registration for ALL [male and female] is very reasonable. Steven Sass Baltimore Md.
12/26/19	End the draft. VNV 1966-1967
12/26/19	I was drafted in 1968, served 2 years in the US Army, one of them as a combat medic with the 1st Cavalry Division E Co (Recon) 5th Bn 7th Cav. in Vietnam. I graduated from college and taught in the public school system in NJ. I was brought up very patriotically (my father served in WW II in the Navy) but did not want to be in the military. Once drafted I did basic at Ft. Jackson, SC and advanced training as a medic at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX. where afterward I was kept there as an instructor at MTC. I was then sent to RVN. After the service I was married, went back to college for an MBA degree, worked for 35+ years in business had 2 kids and lived a very good and successful life. I give you that "history" because even though I wanted to have nothing to do with the military, as I look back on my life (I am now 74 years old) I honestly believe that all my good fortune and success to date is directly related to my military service, especially the year in RVN as a combat troop. It taught me lessons that can never be learned any other way than "being there"! Even though I have a 100% disability related to PTSD and Agent Orange exposure, I would do it again without hesitation. I am very concerned that only 1% or less of our young people serve in the military currently while the rest of the young people reap all the benefits of the freedom and democracy with "no skin in the game" and seem quite content to have it that way. I've said that if I ruled the world that all people (male and female) of a certain age (18-35) would be required to perform some sort of national service, e.g. military, national/international service, working in inner cities, etc. That type of service would instill what it is like to help others, preserve our freedom and democracy and make them better citizens as opposed to the self-serving, "let others do the dirty work/heavy lifting for me" that many of our young people seem to have today!

	<p>I just visited Isreal and learned that once their youth turn 18 and finish high school they are required (with few exceptions) to serve in the military...males for 3 years and females for 2 years. I understand their situation is different than ours, but still STRONGLY think that it is unfair and actually discriminatory to allow the vast majority of our young people to enjoy all the benefits of our great country and let a small minority of our youth pay the price.</p> <p>One last point, I do not advocate a required military stint as a punishment, but as a tremendous learning experience and "paying your dues" for living in this great county of ours with all it's freedoms and benefits.</p> <p>Thanks for the oppportunity for allowing me to comment.</p> <p>William McClung, Jr. </p>
12/26/19	A Draft is a form of slavery. Please din't do it.
12/26/19	Bring back the draft two years male and female also allow people who serve to smoke marijuana while off duty then you're numbers will also swell up as that's a decent barrier
12/26/19	<p>1 Patriotism becomes a habit. 2 Pay a decent wage. 3 None. 4 pay a decent wage. 5 I think not. I hope not. 6 Yes. 7 I hope not.</p>
12/26/19	<p>Draft registration is still a thing -- it shouldn't be. Extend the draft to women? That would just make it twice as bad! Force every young person to work on some government-defined kind of "service"? That's just another form of SOCIALISM.</p> <p>It's time to put this whole concept behind us.</p>
12/26/19	<p>To whom it concern, It is wrong to have any draft in a free country like the Us. Service should always be voluntary. And therefore we should eliminate registration for Selective Service. Sincerely, Eric Roberts</p>
12/26/19	Please recommend that congress enact HR 5492 to repeal the Military Selective Service Act.

12/26/19	Voluntary service has value, conscription does not. Conscription is modern day slavery and has no place in a free society. Volunteer armies are better disciplined and more effective than those forced to serve. The Government does not have any right to the forced servitude of its people.
12/26/19	I believe that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A draft status history of every member of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the draft status of their children should be published annually in the Congressional Report. *Draft registration should be ended for everyone. *Women should not be included in the draft registration. *All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties *National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society
12/26/19	Even more important than the call to service is the call to citizenship. It appears to me that the fundamental importance of citizenship is lost on the greater population, and is not clearly articulated by the media or our elected leaders. We have cheapened the privilege of citizenship by extending it to anyone who merely resides in the USA, and we condone flagrant forms of anti-citizenship like sanctuary cities, ill-conceived protest movements, and the commandeering of our universities as political platforms. I think the Commissions call for basic education in Civics is a great first step.
12/26/19	There is nothing less American, less conducive to liberty than compelled "service," particularly if it requires one to serve the State. The Government has no right to force a citizen into service for any purpose. This idea is heinous and insidious.
12/26/19	no slavery
12/26/19	Pass H.R. 5492. Voluntary service is great and laudable. Involuntary service is government forcing a person into service which is equal to slavery.
12/26/19	Congress should pass H.R. 5492. I want my country defended by people who wish to defend it, not those who are coerced into doing so. Every generation of my family has seen military service including the Revolutionary War. An ancestor signed the Declaration of Independence. Ditch that which is unnecessary so we can properly take care of those who serve and put paid to the winders and snowflakes who are not willing to actually take up arms.
12/26/19	I have no problem with mandatory public service, military or otherwise for a limited period of time. Service should be compensated at a comparable rate to the market and should include both men and women
12/26/19	The draft is slavery and should be abolished forever....Mark Hinkle
12/27/19	Pass HR 5492.
12/27/19	There should be no mandatory service, of any kind, in the United States. There should be no military draft or selective service system. There is no good reason to keep or expand the current selective service "contingency" system. Compulsory service in the armed forces is a form of slavery. It violates the plain text of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. The All Volunteer Force has performed well since it was instituted in 1973, and the 1980 act that reinstated draft registration for males should be repealed as soon as possible.
12/27/19	1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? No. Military service has no inherent base value. Value is only produced on an individual basis over time.

	<p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Change for the better. Apologize for your past. Be transparent about incidents that are less than favorable for the armed services. Stop drone striking innocent civilians including women and children and covering it up. Actually punish enlisted members for the crimes of sexual assault and rape, and remove entire chains of command that allow it to go on. Investigate "suicides" committed by women who have raised issue with a coworker or superior. Do better. Be better.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? "Young Americans" as this site has put it are averse to violence and murder nowadays, funnily enough, and would rather not align themselves with an agency that kills for a living. More non-violent and peace minded tactical operations and approaches would break down this barrier. Many young people nowadays are also exploring what gender and gender identity means to them. The transgender military ban puts these people, especially people who align themselves in a nonbinary or "inbetween" way, in a position where they are not legally allowed to participate. Or if they are, they are unaware of this.</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? Cease hounding people who do not want to be hounded. Instead make your presence and job availability known to a wider audience of people less frequently. Sending the same recruiter to the same highschool once a month is not working. Sending this recruiter to many different colleges and schools once every six months per location may aid your search.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. Abolish the draft. It is inhumane, corrupt, and wrong. Taking away the right to vote or access student loans for not wanting to align yourself with a violent political machine is monstrous behaviour.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. It should be abolished and gotten rid of entirely. You will find that people who do not want to be doing what they are doing, but instead are doing it because they have no other choice, are not the best people for the job you have forced them to have (should they be drafted).</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It is not necessary, valuable, or feasible. It is another example of monstrous and inhumane behaviour. This requirement would further destroy the image of the American military to its' people. Again, those who do not want to be there will not a good little soldier make.</p>
12/27/19	I recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492 and end the draft laws
12/27/19	Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends 230 Canyon Road Santa Fe, NM 85701

	<p>December 27, 2019</p> <p>Attn: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service</p> <p>I am writing you regarding your investigation into Selective Service regulations and hope you will consider my concerns and the concerns of the Santa Fe Monthly Meeting (Quaker) on this subject.</p> <p>Our Meeting has traditionally united in it's opposition to war and supports the position of Conscientious Objector during times of mandatory enlistment.</p> <p>We believe draft registration should be ended for everyone and not extended to women. In addition we believe all criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register should be stopped and overturned for those currently living under these penalties. We believe National Service should remain voluntary and that compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Allen Winchester Clerk of Santa Fe Monthly Meeting</p>
12/27/19	<p>I think it is time to retire the Selective Service System. Women should definitely not be included. If your real concern is about people participating then the nation should stop fighting wars that are illegal and immoral. The invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan has cost the nation trillions of dollars, made the world less safe, eroded our role in the world and left thousands of young women with internal scars and injury that may never heal. Why make it easier to include more people in the carnage?</p> <p>The nation would be much stronger if we used the money from the Department of Defense to rebuild this country, our infrastructure is failing. We face enormous challenges from climate change and claim we lack the money to invest in developing the infrastructure to support green technology, the hundreds of millions spent on missiles and bombs would go a long way to make a difference. Also, young people would be much more likely to support building a positive future rather than blowing someone or something up.</p> <p>Eliminate the Selective Service System!</p>
12/27/19	<p>As an Army veteran I do see a value to service but not sure it is "inherent." I gained discipline and respect as well as a marketable skill so my voluntary service has had a great deal of value. I believe that most people currently entering the military are seeking those exact benefits so to increase the desire to serve, those benefits should be emphasized and/or increased.</p> <p>For many young people service seems like a distraction to their goals of college and/or career. It should be stressed that service can increase the chances for success later in life by financially and emotionally strengthening the individual's standing when pursuing either college or career.</p>

	<p>All that said, to compel people to serve in the military or any other type of national service is antithetical to the tenants of a free society. I do not believe a draft or any system of compulsory service is aligned with the ethos of the United States. As I have stated, there is value to service but servitude is in direct conflict with the moral and ethical foundation of our country and should be abolished in whatever form it currently exists and never reinstated in any form. If the people of a country believe that the country is worth defending they will voluntarily do so. If they do not volunteer either the country itself or the particular conflict is viewed as unworthy which is the strongest signal possible to leadership that they are leading in the wrong direction.</p>
12/27/19	<p>Pass H.R. 5492.</p>
12/27/19	<p>There is no need for a draft or draft registration. These are human rights violations and are also sexually discriminatory.</p> <p>Our government reserving use of military force for legitimate situations and not for police actions or for aiding the oil industry or other such would be a big help to making service more appealing. If laying your life on the line is as likely to be so abused as it is now, many people will be less inclined to step up. I cannot say I blame them. I am too old now, I considered it when I was younger but abuse of the military for the benefit of corporations ,and regime changes which only result in more wars later, put a lot of people off for legitimate reasons.</p>
12/27/19	<p>The military draft does not have military value; we are no longer fighting in that age. The US Military already tracks those in whom it might be interested by watching the school grading records, a part of the 2001 Patriot Act; the current U.S.Post Office registration system does not advance our national defense. The DoD will also state this.</p> <p>Deciding on required national service, military or otherwise, comes to a core question about the identity of the country. The question was answered in the preamble to the Constitution: "...in order to create a more perfect union". Our identity is not to build the most unified, efficient, patriotic, or managed country; it is to build a country where we can all get along. Discussions of affecting national character in a direction are against the goals of our founding fathers.</p>
12/28/19	<p>Dear sr</p> <p>First think you for your help and I wish the best news for you, for other reasons I have something very important for me to complete my information about my Retirement benefit how it's I make plans for my retirement and my father's SSN Veterans and how much I ll get from social security. Can also create a personal account and request ther social security statement to review my SSN account and SSN card number in my account for my future life and for family, and I need you to help me and give me more information about my future life and my SSN information to claim my credit report and account bank .</p> <p>The second thing I try to contact the transunion and EQUIFAX and experian customer service and I was calling them several times to asking them to give me my credit report for my bank of America account and my AMERICAN Express credit card.</p>

but they never send it to me,

I HAVE RECEIVED MY REPORT BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT IT ALSO I CAN'T FIND MY ATM CARD NUMBER

Could you please help me sr and give me more information about my SSN INFORMATION FOR MY FUTURE LIFE AND MY ACCOUNT BANK AND MY AMERICAN EXPRESS ACCOUNT AND CREDIT CARD, PLEASE

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I WISH THE BEST NEWS FOR YOU AND YOUR LIFE

Best reagards

Mohammed Giyash

Email [REDACTED]

Dear sr

First think you for your help and I wish the best news for you, for other reasons I have something very important for me to complete my information about my Retirement benefit how it's I make plans for my retirement and my father's SSN Veterans and how much I ll get from social security. Can also create a personal account and request ther social security statement to review my SSN account and SSN card number in my account for my future life and for family, and I need you to help me and give me more information about my future life and my SSN information to claim my credit report and account bank .

The second thing I try to contact the transunion and EQUIFAX and experian customer service and I was calling them several times to asking them to give me my credit report for my bank of America account and my AMERICAN Express credit card.

12/28/19

	<p>but they never send it to me,</p> <p>I HAVE RECEIVED MY REPORT BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT IT ALSO I CAN'T FIND MY ATM CARD NUMBER</p> <p>Could you please help me sr and give me more information about my SSN INFORMATION FOR MY FUTURE LIFE AND MY ACCOUNT BANK AND MY AMERICAN EXPRESS ACCOUNT AND CREDIT CARD, PLEASE</p> <p>THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT</p> <p>I WISH THE BEST NEWS FOR YOU AND YOUR LIFE</p> <p>Best reagards</p> <p>Mohammed Giyash</p> <p>Email [REDACTED]</p>
12/28/19	<p>I'm a drafted combat Vietnam vet, US Army. this is in reference to the Selective Service System. The (DRAFT) should be for everyone, men and women with no reason to get out of it, not college, job, marriage, or son or daughter of a special person should keep you from service to your Country. The ratio of combat soldier to support personnel (11 :1) or higher leaves plenty of jobs for all. The (60,000) plus VN KIA's mostly young men would liked to have stayed at Home and had a normal life like the special few that didn't have to go.</p>
12/28/19	<p>Dear Commission, Public service has inherent value, BUT NOT NECESSARILY MILITARY SERVICE. The military draft is discriminatory and outdated, and should be gotten away with entirely. Yours truly,</p> <p>Mary Sinclair, Corvallis, Oregon, registered voter and relative of vUS ARMY and US AIR FORCE veterans</p>
12/28/19	<p>Abolish the draft & draft registration altogether. "National Service" is no better. However, all adult citizens should belong ex officio to the Militia, which has not been "well regulated" since the creation of the National Guard more than a century ago. The National Guard is NOT the Constitutionally mandated</p>

	Militia; and the National Guard was obviously created to allow Southern States to disarm black people. Now the National Guard is used as an argument to disarm ALL Americans, rendering them defenseless to crime and tyranny. Some people desire that.
12/28/19	I was drafted on May 5, 1969, in Imperial County, California. My feelings about the draft is that it is necessary for maintaining a active military. I do not believe in public service. I believe the draft has some faults including political influences including at the local level, it is not fair but we must live by its principles.
12/28/19	<p>Hello. I reviewed 'STAFF MEMORANDUM: MILITARY SERVICE' and I agree that there is a civil-military divide. Steps should be taken to lessen this divide. In case there is going to be some sort of mandatory service, an option for service would learning a foreign language. Languages that are critical for National Security - Chinese, Russia, Arabic, Persian, etc.</p> <p>We as people need to let go of sentiments that when our country asks us to do public service, it is an encroachment on liberty and freedom. As far as the Selective Service a viable option would be to suspend registration but keeping local boards intact.</p> <p>There are some good points mentioned in "Promote a Continuum between the AVF and the Draft" of the memo 'STAFF MEMORANDUM: Readiness of Selective Service and Structure of a Future National Mobilization .'</p> <p>For future public service programs, the Selective Service should be utilized as a role model for training and the structure of the program itself. In 'STAFF MEMORANDUM: MILITARY SERVICE' it is mentioned that Junior ROTC programs should be expanded and I support this conclusion. Another program similar to Junior ROTC is the Civil Air Patrol program.</p> <p>I was reviewing 'STAFF MEMORANDUM: AN INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE AMERICA' and I am not sure if a proposal is to have a system where volunteers register for public service? But if such system were to exist, it would be an excellent idea and this way no one is being compelled into public service. Such system would be effective, however, if volunteers would register with the understanding that they could be utilized in any capacity for public service.</p> <p>An option that could be considered as far as female registration with Selective Service is only having female volunteers register for Selective Service instead of all females within an age bracket. In case it is decided that registration for males is going to continue, then registration requirement for all males should remain in place.</p>
12/28/19	<p>The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees equality between every man and woman residing in the United States or it's Territories. Yet currently, women are exempt from the Military Selective Service System. In light of the fact that the past discrimination between men and women serving in combat roles in the Armed Forces no longer exists, the Constitutional guarantee of equality decrees that women can not continue to be immune from their fair and equal responsibility in the defense of this nation. Furthermore, to impose fines, imprisonment, and potential loss of civil and federal opportunities upon males who do not comply with the registration requirements of the MSSS based solely upon gender is in direct conflict with the principles of the Fourteenth Amendment.</p> <p>Women can never aspire to fully reach equality with their male counterparts until they embrace their rightful role as co-defenders of American liberties.</p>
12/29/19	<p>To the National Commission Staff:</p> <p>I am writing this memo to the National Commission staff as a Board member of SOS America (Service Over Self). I am writing in support of the belief that SOS America should be considered as a part of America's fabric. As you may know, through Major General John Borling (USAF - Ret) Chairman and Founder, SOS</p>

	<p>America can create a special, voluntary, one year service military service program for the 18-25 cohort who are physically and mentally able to 'take care of themselves'. The Program would include Accession, Training and Service in a small unit (@100 recruits) with leadership provided by two company grade officers and four (4) experienced Sergeants. The leadership cadre can include active, guard, reserve and activated retired personnel. The Selective Service System will be essential in providing administrative backbone for this initiative which will require legislation with the DOD as the executive agent.</p> <p>There is some correlation between the WPA and CCC programs of pre WW2 and a definite desired outcome of nation building in America. The benefit of mixing geography, ages, and backgrounds in a small unit that works together for a year is self evident and the individual, earned self esteem is another huge positive.</p> <p>As outlined in SOS America documents, the small (company sized) units will be quartered and fed by the requesting service or agency. A spartan like experience may result. Given numbers, tents or barracks plus unit messing (KP) may be required. The initial issue of utility uniforms/athletic shoes and other basics will take place at the military entry processing points or first duty station. There will be no dress uniforms. All in expenses for the company sized unit on a yearly basis (including leadership) is estimated at \$200,000.</p> <p>SOS America (Service over Self) at http://www.sosamerica.org presents the essentials of this initiative. A previously drafted legislative initiative has been prepared.</p> <p>Thus, this memo is written in support of requesting the inclusion the SOS America program (www.sosamerica.org) in the National Commission on Service report, and deserves serious consideration at this point in time. Your positive response, with inclusion in the National Commission Report on Service, would be most appreciated.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kenneth J. Kogut, Ph.D.,P.E.,CEM,GBE,CSDP SOS America - Board Member E: [REDACTED]</p>
12/29/19	<p>I very much believe that one should do no harm, that one should take care of the environment, including the self and all other humans, and that war is always harmful. Therefore, I believe in service yo yhe world.</p>
12/29/19	<p>I am a surviving wife of a Very Proud Navy Veteran I will announce his name Dennis Zickefoose he unfortunately lost his life to December 5th 2019 fighting a very rough fight of all different kinds of bacteria/ infections just a very fight for over a year do from diabetes I his wife was his 100% Caregiver .Anyways I would love to thank the VA for taking care and getting my husband everything and anything he needed to help him the VA has and was very kind wonderful people to my husband treated him with the upmost respect always So I'm just trying to thank you from the bottom of my heart .I can never give you all the praise and gratitude you the veteran Drs nurses even the ones at the desk deserve thank you I will miss all of you my husband and I love you deeply.I also got to say one thing my husband would tell me even though he was blind and couldn't walk he would say to me you know if they would lay me down put a gun in my hand I would still fight for my country I would be so proud because I would that's amazing but you know how that would end right that's how proud of a</p>

	<p>Navy. Veteran he was I just had to share that and thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking time and treating my husband of 14 years amazingly I love you all R.I.H my amazing husband Dennis James Zickefoose till I see you again soar like an eagle and sing your heart out I love you and miss you so much My proud Navy Vet 9-7-59 till 12-5-19</p>
12/29/19	<p>The issue of public service has many facets. Should it be required or voluntary? Should it be open to all? Should it include all forms of service or only military service? Is there an avenue for conscientious objectors to refuse service that is against their moral/ethical beliefs?</p> <p>There is a cost to establishing and operating a registration system. If we look only at military service there are substantial legitimate questions about the necessary size and nature of the military. Do we really need 800 foreign military bases????? Are we an overly militarized society? Military leaders always ask for more - more soldiers, more weapons, more ships, more planes. To question those claims one becomes a target for epithets like "soft on terrorism, communism, or the ism of the day". If the US was ever seriously attacked and we needed more soldiers, many would rush to volunteer.</p> <p>There are many other public service needs in our world than simply military ones. One can think of AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, or many sustainable development efforts needed here and overseas. All these efforts would probably better serve to build peace than our military footprint.</p> <p>I believe a system of public service that provides living wages and allows citizens to voluntarily apply for work that meets the directives of their conscience across all public service possibilities makes sense. Requiring registration does not markedly make us safer or better as a nation. Just as the military offers incentives to prospective soldiers or to their possible re-enlistment, incentives could be offered for any public service roles deemed necessary to fulfill. The federal government as employer already has a civil service establishment that could be broadened to include all of these options.</p> <p>A mandatory selective service registration system is neither necessary, economically prudent, nor the best way to employ the talents of our citizenry to build a better world.</p>
12/29/19	<p>NO MANDATORY DRAFT!!!</p>
12/29/19	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Service to others have inherent value when and if it creates connection, and increases dignity. Service also adds value when it creates a greater understanding of the reality and root causes of another's strife.</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Give them opportunities to serve in ways that nurture dignity.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? A) The barriers to participating in Military Service: The truth that war is damaging and unproductive is starting to penetrate the public mind. The majority wants other solutions to conflicts. The suffering it causes on both sides is becoming unbearable. B) The barriers to participating in National and Public Service: The divisive rhetoric in politics for the last 20 years. Republican vote-seeking politicians have pandered to the extreme right to get votes, and they have done so by dragging down the political discourse to a level where ordinary people feel discomfort</p>

	<p>and even disgust. When the leaders do not seek to find common ground, why would the population at large want to serve.</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?</p> <p>A) The military: Make and publish a plan to replace the military might with a force for peace, dignity and relationship building. "Mutual Destruction as a deterrent" is no longer an effective strategy in this century. Neither is supporting foreign governments with bad human-rights records. Neither is meddling with the democratic rule of other countries. Neither is invading countries without cause.</p> <p>B) National and public service: Make and publish a plan to reduce suffering and increase dignity. Give people the tools to (re-)build their communities, based on democratic principles (not the principles of profitability).</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>No. The last 300 years of history shows us that military power does not solve the problems of the people. War is simply nation-sized theft. Human connections prevent war. Our security does not depend on having the best protection, nor the best meddling in other countries, but it depends on not having anybody wanting to attack us. We need to repair the damage that has been done, not add more wounds.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>We need a non-military path to solve the global peace-puzzle, so yes, we need to modify or end the current selective service system.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>We need a non-military path to solve the problems that fuels violent conflict such as global warming and dictators.</p> <p>Sincerely, Martin Dahlborg, Nokomis FL.</p>
12/29/19	<p>I am strongly opposed to the military draft. It does not make us safer or more secure. That said, I would favor a system to encourage young Americans to participate in national and public service, especially those with critical skills. A mandatory service requirement is surely feasible and may be valuable. I am not sure that it is necessary. In any case, it should NOT include mandatory military service.</p>
12/29/19	<p>/Users/allenwin/Desktop/SFMM/SFMM 2019/SFMM Selective Service.pages</p> <p>Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends 630 Canyon Road Santa Fe, NM 85701</p> <p>December 29, 2019</p>

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

I am writing you regarding your investigation into Selective Service regulations and hope you will consider my concerns and the concerns of the Santa Fe Monthly Meeting (Quaker) on this subject.

Our Meeting has traditionally united in it's opposition to war and supports the position of Conscientious Objector during times of mandatory enlistment.

We believe draft registration should be ended for everyone and not extended to women. In addition we believe all criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register should be stopped and overturned for those currently living under these penalties. We believe National Service should remain voluntary and that compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.

Sincerely,

Allen Winchester
Clerk of Santa Fe Monthly Meeting

PS, I am resending this letter to reflect the correct street address: 630 Canyon Road, not 230 Canyon Road

1. Public service has crucial importance because it builds SOLIDARITY. Individuals cannot live the American dream unless we all work together to support one another. Cynical attitudes toward government and civic life divide the nation.
2. We need more OPTIONS for service and more public HONOR. Only the military and first responders get honored at public events and public spaces. Of course, these are male professions. What about teachers, social workers, local politicians, counselors and ministers (especially in prison)?
3. Imperialistic campaigns and injustice at home undermine the integrity of service. I do not believe our leaders when they say the goals are defense and peace, but they bomb people half way around the globe. There are people in America who are not free, the RULE OF LAW is being undermined, starting with the current president.
4. MANDATORY service for one year, with a choice of fields. Or state university tuition, 1 year for 1 year served.
5. Yes. If people do not feel solidarity with the nation, then we are not safe. If wars are fought by everyone, not by mercenaries, then politicians will not wage wars for money.
6. Yes. Include all sexes and provide alternative service (teaching, community, infrastructure)

12/30/19

	7. Yes. We all have a DUTY to each other. Freedom is not selfishness, it is living together in harmony.
12/30/19	Service is so valuable that it should be broadened and be contingent for receiving any federal aid including college loans. 2 yr. Minimum, outside of the person's own community. And now that women have argued that they can fill every combat role, they should likewise be subject to the draft. The draft should have an online registration component - of you can file a binding agreement to pay taxes online you should be able to register as well.
12/30/19	<p>I am a member of the Religious Society of Friends, otherwise known as Quakers, and am writing to urge you to end all draft registration for both men and women. Since we believe in that of God in every person, we are morally opposed to war; and we believe that forcing young men and women to register for military service is wrong.</p> <p>I also believe that there should be no penalties for those who do not register and that any penalties already incurred should be overturned. Military service should be a choice based on one's individual conscience.</p> <p>In addition I would like to see some form of national service made available to our young people. This would give them the opportunity to do something to benefit our country in a positive way. Recruitment centers for this service could be placed on high school campuses alongside military service recruitment centers to give the youth of our country a real choice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sincerely,</p> <p>Arthur Kegerreis, Los Angeles, CA</p>
12/30/19	<p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>No. This is America. The draft, especially the military draft, is involuntary servitude. A nationwide volunteer option for public service that includes fair pay, benefits (like health care) and/or perhaps educational or employment options--like tuition relief could make sense and recreate a spirit of patriotism and purpose,</p>
12/30/19	<p>As a former enlisted member of the U.S. Army Reserves (1991-1997), I would like to share my thoughts on the questions the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service has asked here: 1.) Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? It has value to the extent that it helps preserve freedom in the United States or elsewhere. But if the nature of the service is itself anti-freedom (i.e. involuntarily drafted), this benefit is severely diminished. 2.) How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By ensuring that military forces are not used as a tool of "national interest", but only in defense of freedom and human rights, with the Geneva Conventions and ethical safeguards against harming civilians strictly upheld, so that the reputation of soldiers is not besmirched and people who are young and idealistic as I was will be motivated to volunteer. Forcing people to "serve" will always be counter-productive. If something can't be accomplished via voluntary participation, maybe it is not such a deserving cause in the first place. 3.) What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The fact that people can see government is way out of control and behaving in all kinds of anti-freedom ways that do not deserve our support, such as spying on the American people, committing war crimes, and running up a huge public debt. 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? With more transparency about what skills are needed and exactly what purposes they will serve. Few smart, skilled and patriotic people will be motivated to join the U.S. government's military if they think that, like Edward Snowden, they may find themselves being used to do unconstitutional and morally indefensible work. 5.) Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. It never was. The ends do not justify the means, and violating freedom is not the way to protect it. 6.) Are modifications to the selective service</p>

	<p>system needed?The selective service system should be abolished. 7.) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?Absolutely not.</p>
<p>12/30/19</p>	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?</p> <p>Yes, public service has immense value. It teaches you to handle and overcome challenges, put others before yourself, among other values to numerous to mention.</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>There is no real attempt to increase a desire to serve. In the last decade, it seems that most young Americans seem to be interested in celebrity gossip and getting rich quick. The main focus in most of America seems to be to only care about themselves.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?</p> <p>The barriers I have encountered were health preventing military service, low pay across all branches of public service, and politicians and media portraying public servants as lazy, greedy do-nothings.</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?</p> <p>Increases in pay can help increase participation, along with increasing the presence of outreach efforts at high schools and colleges (job fairs, career days, ect.) Offering benefits that can only be received via public service can also help.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>No. An all voluntary fighting force will give everything they can possibly give for their country. The draft was never a good idea, when you essentially force someone into public service, they will be demoralized and never be inspired to achieve anything more that the minimal requirements.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Yes, the Selective Service System is outdated. Most of the laws were written in the 80's and early 90's, and are outdated. The laws also vastly differ by state, they should be replaced by a single set of rules from the federal government.</p> <p>There are also those who are completely unaware of the need to register, there needs be a system that allows them to register even if they are over 26. Similar to how GED's are available to those who don't get a diploma from a high school.</p>

	<p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>A mandatory service requirement is not necessary, valuable, or feasible? People must be inspired to serve. I was inspired to try and serve by family members, TV shows, and other personal experiences. While I was not allowed to serve, these experiences left me with a desire to serve my country.</p>
12/30/19	<p>A Draft is outdated, and because it links Federal Financial Aid for college, is threatening. At this moment in time, the US Military is being used to support corrupt corporate interests in the US and Abroad, which doesn't make it attractive or ethically supportable in terms of National Service. The Draft should be eliminated, and rather, service whether military or civil, should be encouraged by: giving free or substantially reduced tuition to college for Americans of any age that choose to serve, supporting a civil requirement rather than a military requirement. Removing the US Military from war zones where we don't belong. Making registration or service subject to residency, rather than citizenship.</p> <p>Of course service to one's country has value, but the idea that military service is the only honorable way to serve is a farce. Imagine training young people to care for seniors, or be educators, or farmers and be able to build gardens, schools, etc at home in the US for communities that need them.</p> <p>What does National Security depend on?</p> <p>One other point: if Americans cannot afford a basic standard of living, how do you expect them to serve their country, if our country doesn't even provide for many basic requirements. A great goal would be to reduce the need for the military...</p>
12/30/19	<p>Service has inherent value to individuals who feel the need to serve. Service implies consent. Service without consent is slavery. The draft is inconsistent with consent and Freedom, the value we are supposedly defending. Therefore, the selective service system needs to be abolished along with the mandatory service requirement.</p>
12/30/19	<p>I believe that the draft should be eliminated. It is not a necessary component of US national security. What creates national security is having a responsible government which uses diplomacy and humanity in its decisions rather than reckless, impulsive, imperialist actions. The youth of our country should not be responsible for carrying out, at risk of death, the irresponsible, often greedy (in search of oil) military actions of our government.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Please send the military draft now. Kathy Gannett</p>
12/30/19	<p>Please send the military draft now. Kathy Gannett</p>
12/30/19	<p>Please enact H.R. 5492 and end draft registration.</p>
12/30/19	<p>The draft places the burden of service to our country on the poor. Unless there is some way to change this (maybe through a lottery), I am opposed to any expansion.</p>
12/30/19	<p>I oppose the inclusion of women in the military draft. I also oppose the inclusion of men for the same reasons: (1) It is a form of slavery, which was abolished by Constitutional amendment in the 19th century and (2) It makes it easier for politicians to conduct war adventures, a hideous, anti-human activity for which they are notorious and which have been shown historically to decrease, rather than increase national security.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Please recommend to Congress the repeal of the military draft. It has not been used for a long time now and is a waste of taxpayer's dollars. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

12/30/19	It is time to change our whole mindset about the use of violence and war to address conflicts. Violence begets more hatred and more violence. We must not risk young lives in warfare. Rather, resources, human, intellectual, and financial resources must be directed toward creating a better world. There should be no draft for war-making.
12/30/19	One way to increase participation is to stop starting wars for profit that benefit corporations. and start using our resources for a means of establishing peace and assistance to regions who need help. To stop killing and instead start preserving life. I do not agree with forced enlistment of any soul into the armed forces for any reason.
12/30/19	Please discontinue the draft for men and/or women in 2020. My own son is in the military by choice. I think this is a much better way to go. I also feel that we should do everything we can to avoid wars in the future, so that there is no need to draft men and/or women. Thank you for hearing/reading my opinion.
12/30/19	Please do away with the draft. Compelling people to participate in war (possibly death) is absurd - folks will do a lot of crazy things to get out of it.
12/30/19	I believe that draft registration should be abolished. I was a university professor for forty-three years and, when I began, the draft was a very disruptive affair for young men, causing many of them to do less well in their studies than if they had been worry-free. Today very few democracies have compulsory military service. More and more young people oppose killing and violence, while fewer have a religious affiliation, the traditional basis for conscientious objection. There is also the question of compulsory participation of young women, many of whom are mothers. This seems to me an extremely unhealthy prospect.
12/30/19	The military is an outdated institution. It has little to do with Defense and primarily is an institution to enforce imperialism and world domination. Service for peaceful activities should be encouraged and appreciated. The glorification of war-making and aggression should be discouraged.
12/30/19	Nearly half a century has passed since the draft was suspended, and it is time for it to go from dormant to dead via H.R. 5492. By eliminating the Selective Service System, we will take an emphatic step forward for our ever-evolving image as a democracy and world leader. Not only should we cease to tell young men (and avoid telling young women) that they may be forced to agree with a certain war or war in general and act against their conscience, we should also send the world the message that we will lead through diplomacy rather than a constant specter of military action. Even if future wars do erupt as a last resort or through no doing of our own, we send other countries a positive message by unequivocally saying we will *never* force our own citizens to join it. Our military has naturally held its own with a dormant draft over the last four-plus decades, and the way to sustain, let alone build on that is to positively incentivize service for those who would genuinely want to participate, not to threaten those who cannot on good conscience support a war or the general concept of war. The latter is antithetical to exemplary democratic values.
12/30/19	Please END draft registration. I vote in EVERY general election!
12/30/19	Please recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. Thank you.
12/30/19	I would support a national public works project for youth, similar to the C.C.C. of the 1930s. Rather than work for war, young people could work for peace and help our farmers by picking crops and by doing work to maintain the necessary national infrastructure on highways, bridges, parks, etc. This would provide employment and job skills, a sense of purpose and service and support the developing growth of our country. The vast militarism of our country, the lack of other opportunities for young people to escape poverty, the enormous, unbelievable amounts of money spent on weaponry, developing more

	weapons, selling weapons to other countries, etc., not to mention the amount of monies wasted by the military, well documented, could be spent instead for development, not destruction. This would lead us into a future that supports rather than destroys human beings and their cultures. Thank you for your consideration.
12/30/19	Please tell Congress to enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. Contrary to popular myth a draft does not decrease the chances or duration or extent of wars. END THE KILLING!!! DO NOT FORCE SERVICE ON PEOPLE!!
12/30/19	End draft registration to ensure service members are dedicated and reliable. Pay more to attract better qualified service members and more of them. Allow transgender people to serve to increase dedicated soldiers. I had to register for the draft to receive college grants in 1981 and you would not have wanted me in any branch, in any capacity. Kevin Kemp
12/30/19	Dear Senator Wyden & Merkley, & REepresentative Blumenauer: With the President pardoning heinous war crimes by our soldiers, we MUST eliminate mandatory draft & military service. ANYONE's conscience should not include serving alongside criminals. THANK YOU, Dr. Virginia Feldman
12/30/19	I would like the Commission to recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration.
12/30/19	I think service is very important. I do not support military service that trains young people to use lethal force against others. There can be benefits for young adults living and working in a unit that builds community, trust, self discipline and self respect, empathy and respect for others, healthy physical and mental fitness, and other life skills. Instead of returning soldiers to their communities in damaged physical and mental states, we could be helping them become citizens who value helping those in need. They could learn skills and help those affected by natural disasters, improve our national parks and public parks, repair and build needed housing, create recreation opportunities for inner-city kids, learn first aid and emergency responses, etc. Let's invest in building healthy adults.
12/30/19	Please pass De Fazio's bill to END THE DRAFT. Please End the Draft. Stop Regime Change Wars. Stop collecting information about America's youth at this time. No need!!!! Go ahead and keep soliciting young people for the military, but stop harassing the young to register!!! Thanks! Susan Lea
12/30/19	When things bring value, people willingly do them and willingly pay for them. When you have to threaten people with fines or imprisonment enforced by armed agents, it's a pretty safe bet that the thing does not bring value. Forcing people to serve and forcing taxpayers to pay for it are examples of such things that aren't worth the cost. Repeal selective service, reduce our military and the cost of it to our taxpayers, and rather than look for ways to increase people's desire to serve and their participation in military, national, and public service, first answer the question of why that goal should even be sought. Why interfere rather than leave people free to serve mankind through commerce? Why reduce their income through taxation to pay for things they wouldn't otherwise be interested in funding?
12/30/19	Please end all military draft registration now. For the past 50 years, the military has been used for repeated unnecessary incursions into other countries and young people have been encouraged to sacrifice their lives and the lives of others for a misrepresented "patriotism."

	<p>This country has many problems, none of them helped by the invasion of other countries. If you truly "inspire2serve," please inspire young people to serve this country at home in ways that will help solve the problems on our own soil - infrastructure, education, medical, so many more. And a service corps would provide more meaningful training for employment in the future.</p> <p>There would still be opportunities for young people to serve in the military, but through motivations of their own, not through repeated pressures from recruiters. It would result in a much smaller, but stronger military, which is all that we actually need.</p> <p>It is time for the United States to move seriously to create a more peaceful world and this would be a major step in that direction.</p>
12/30/19	<p>To whom it may concern: The draft is a barbaric outdated process which intends to entrap innocent Americans into the US war machine/military industrial complex. The draft is a relic of the past and must be immediately abolished.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Draft registration has been a failure and a burden on millions of men. The vast majority of men violate the law by not registering willfully or timely as the law requires. Most young men today are registered through coercive means that are linked to other actions, such as applying for student financial aid or a driver's license or state ID. If someone fails to register, these and other federal and state programs and services can be taken away, without due process.</p> <p>Rather than continue this extra-judicial punishment for men or extend it to women, it's time to end draft registration for everyone!</p> <p>Requiring women to register for the draft does nothing to forward the movement for gender equality. To the contrary, feminist movements throughout history have included resistance to the undemocratic practice of conscription. The male-only draft already has been deemed unconstitutional by the courts. Striking down the draft and draft registration for everyone is the better path toward freedom and equality for all genders!</p> <p>Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; National service should remain voluntary – compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society. "Where is it written in the Constitution," asked Daniel Webster, "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?"</p>
12/30/19	<p>I recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. Forcing men (or women) to kill and be killed is a barbarous practice the USA should have ended long ago. Let us start 2020 marching toward civilization and encourage development and implementation of tools that promote peace.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Re Expanding Selective Service Registration to All Americans I think Selective Service registration should be eliminated for everyone, but if that's not possible, women should also be required to register. (n.b., I am a woman who served.) Re Universal Service</p>

	<p>I am in favor of this--no exceptions. All young people (18-22?) should perform some kind of national service, preferably with regard to our crumbling infrastructure, and be paid for their work by the Federal government.</p>
	<p>Q1: "Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?" A: No, service does not have inherent value. The value of an act of service is derived from whom, and what purpose, the act serves. Participation in the military does not serve the people of the United States, nor the people of the world; it only serves those who lust for money and power. Therefore, to call participation in the military, "service," is a lie. --- Q2: "How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?" A: This question is poorly worded, as it is not clear whether it is asking "how does," "how can," or "how should." I assume the author actually intended to ask, "how should." Assuming that, by "service," the author means participation in the military, the answer, the U.S. should not attempt to increase the desire for anyone to participate; the U.S. should instead decrease the number of opportunities for military participation by decreasing the number of conflicts in which it is involved. --- Answers to Q3-4: These questions are irrelevant, as the military is an inherently immoral institution and it is, therefore, immoral for the U.S. to attempt to encourage citizens to participate in it. --- Q5: "Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?" A: No. --- Q6: "Are modifications to the selective service system needed?" A: YES. The Selective Service system is, by its very nature, an invasion of privacy and an infringement upon liberty. It needs to be done away with entirely. --- Q7: "Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?" A: No, a mandatory service requirement is unconstitutional and infringes upon the rights of civil liberty and religious liberty. It is neither necessary nor valuable to the safety and well-being of the American people or of the world. It is also not feasible within the context of a nation dedicated to the values of freedom, liberty, and religious tolerance. --- Other comments: The IRS needs to immediately institute a conscientious-objector tax option so that people who object to paying for war may demand, and have the demand granted, for none of their tax money to be used for military, weapons, defense, or police purposes. Being able to financially opt out of military participation is as much of a constitutional rights issue as being able to physically opt out is.</p>
12/30/19	Please end draft registration. Please put most of military budget into education, medical needs for the USA, roads, bridges and Peace Corp.
12/30/19	I have spend several years researching and reporting on the influence of conscripted and voluntary military service and have come to the conclusion that a draft in peacetime -- which we're supposedly now in, absent a current declaration of war by Congress -- accomplishes nothing and costs a lot in money and

	<p>lives. Despite some rhetoric, no one -- not politicians, nor the public, nor the military -- is in favor of reviving a draft. Despite common perceptions, a standing draft doesn't decrease the potential for war; by some knowledgeable assessments, a conscripted military would make wars longer and bloodier. As for the fairness issue, a well-designed draft (i.e. one which would allow for fewer ways to evade it) would distribute the burden of public service more equally, but there are better civic, peaceful ways to do that, which would benefit US society more and strengthen the country's standing in the world.</p> <p>I write this as someone who is opposed to most wars and distressed by the evermore bloated military budget, so I am not in a position to propose modifications to what seems dangerous and wasteful from the get-go, but if the draft were to be reinstated, I would advocate for recognition of selective objection at the very least.</p> <p>I urge you to end the wasteful Selective Service System and associated bureaucracy and lift the unnecessary requirement that anyone of any gender has to register. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Nan Levinson Somerville, MA</p>
12/30/19	<p>Commission, Please recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. More resources now for peace and ending wars and killings instead of more for starting new wars and more killing and violence and destruction. Thank you.</p>
12/30/19	<p>To Whom It May Concern;</p> <p>End the military Draft Once and for All. Dedicate half of our Nations military budget to the Peace Corps, in serious effort to commit to Peace instead of Future wars to destroy unborn lives and the only planet that can sustain us.</p>
12/30/19	<p>I am 75 years old and have witnessed way too many unjust and cruelly destructive wars waged by my nation for reasons that do not benefit the American people I believe that the draft and the requirement that young people register for military service or experience punishment are undemocratic and simply guarantees our government a good supply of what I now call cannon fodder. The existence of the draft has never shortened or limited the damage to our people or the people who dwell in the lands where the wars have been waged. I respectfully request that you recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492.</p>
12/30/19	<p>There are many ways to patriotically serve this nation without endangering the lives of those who serve. War is ineffective. War kills spirits as well as physical bodies. And, it is economically impractical. It is time to do away with the draft!</p>
12/30/19	<p>Greetings Commission Folk,</p> <p>I'm somewhat bummed that I missed the deadline for submitting comments in the Federal Register, but I'm pleased that you're still reading these, in theory.</p> <p>As a Veteran, and as a current Army Reserve Soldier who will be finally retiring very soon, I'd like to weigh in on the subject of women registering for selective</p>

	<p>service.</p> <p>It's time!</p> <p>Every other barrier to equality has been removed! Women are now eligible to serve in all combat arms units and hold all combat arms jobs. In fact, a subject of concern is still whether standards were lowered to accommodate this goal. But regardless of that, women cannot have it both ways! If indeed society and the government acquiesces to those equality demands, they must also hold them accountable and insist everyone (male and female) register for selective service. Any other route is an insult to everyone who has previously done so and took responsibility for this nation's security.</p> <p>The old saying "Be careful of what you wish for" was coined for a reason. To approach this subject with Congress in any other manner would simply tell males that their lives are worth less than a woman's life. Does anyone in this commission feel a man's life is worth less than a woman's? If so, state that for all to hear. Otherwise, do what is right and demand all women register for selective service just like men have been doing for decades.</p> <p>It's time!</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. David Overson</p>
12/30/19	End the Draft signup, No American should be forced to take part in any violent actions by the US. government. WAR IS STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!!!!!!!
12/30/19	Military draft is an outdated and illegal violation of human rights. No one should be compelled to fight wars, nor participate in preparations for war. I burned my draft card in 1966, and have encouraged others to refuse military participation ever since. We should all be working for peace and justice, and serving each other with compassion.
12/30/19	Our military works most effectively when troops volunteer willingly for service. When young people are forced into service against their will, they often do not serve effectively. Please continue to offer incentives and compensation that keep our forces strong with the people who are most suited and willing to serve. Thank you.
12/30/19	I would be in favor of the continuation of National registration of 18 year olds only if there is no military service required. There are so many areas for public service that these young people could address! Not only helping their country and communities but bringing us together as citizens of America! It would be a renewal of unity and empathy we do desperately need in our divided country!
12/30/19	Question#5 No, it is not necessary. (1) Increased technical sophistication has made modern wars less dependent on personnel. (2) The draft interrupts the careers of students who are badly needed in their future professional capacities, such as medicine.
12/30/19	Best to simply end registration since it serves no purpose today except to punish those, all men, who don't register. Compulsory national service is involuntary servitude which is unconstitutional.

12/30/19	<p>Compulsory conscription is anti-freedom, and I consider it un-American. Our modern technologies and psychological knowledge create viable alternatives to action by large numbers of soldiers. I want the end of draft registration in the United States.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Dear Selective Service Officials,</p> <p>We are strongly in favor of the U.S. military draft being officially discontinued. America's conflicts, if they cannot be avoided, should be fought by a well-trained, well-experienced, well-motivated, and well-equipped professional military. This approach has proven quite successful since the active draft ended almost 50 years ago.</p> <p>America's conflicts should not be fought by raw and inexperienced conscripts. They would have little training, no experience, extremely poor motivation, and probably less-effective equipment. Conscripts would have much less military impact and would likely just become machine-gun fodder, as they did in the Vietnam War.</p> <p>A military draft contingency is not necessary for U.S. national security. If the national security of this nation is truly threatened, then millions of highly motivated young people will be looking for ways to defend it and will volunteer for military service without being drafted.</p> <p>If you do elect to continue the military draft, then this country has reached the point of sexual equality that requires you to include young women. Women have proven themselves in recent years to be highly effective in non-combat roles, and they are now proving their ability in combat positions. Sexual equality demands equal obligations as well as equal opportunities.</p> <p>If you continue the military draft, the exemption for Conscientious Objectors should be retained, and the standards for this exemption should be eased. What is the point of drafting young people who are opposed to killing or opposed to aiding and abetting it? Does it make any sense whatsoever to force them into the military, to put them into our already overcrowded prisons, or to cause them to reluctantly leave our country? Allowing a non-military option for C.O.'s to serve the country would be much more effective, much less expensive, and much truer to the ideals of our nation.</p> <p>The preceding option should also be made available for those service members who enlist in the military and then determine that they cannot morally engage in war. Allowing them to serve the country in a non-military way would be much better result and would be much less costly than prosecuting and imprisoning them.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the preceding viewpoints and suggestions into account.</p> <p>Edward T. Marshall</p>

12/30/19	I support HR5492. Abolish the Selective Service System and end draft registration.
12/30/19	I am a vicarious victim of wartime PTSD because my father told his WWI stories to me as a child. Luckily, he was a humble, loving man, so I turned my wounding, my horror, into a life-long career as a helper, a Quaker, and a positive social activist. But kids whose dads were broken and bitter may now be the root of the growing violence and incivility in our nation and abroad. With a high proportion of our men, and now, most regrettably women, trained to be killers, no wonder violence is on the rise. I dream of a world without war. Meantime, perhaps young persons could be given a choice of public service (like the CCC or Peace Corps) when they become of draft age. If two years of required public service were democratically to exclude no one (by being rich) nor be the least bad of terrible choices for the poor, we might hope for a growing class empathy as a social norm. An important piece of war prevention might be to make college free. Then more would become educated contributors to a better life for all, thus making true peace a viable possibility. I am now ninety. I grieve for my country and for the dimming hope for a better world for each succeeding generation. We have fouled our nest with endless war and made war too profitable to work against it. I suggest we divide the Pentagon in half, create a Department of Peace, and give it half the military budget. Then we'd see what human beings can, at their life-affirming best, create.
12/30/19	With the increasing number of young people questioning their gender identity or what gender itself means, I would propose requiring all people of a certain age to register for the Selective Service, rather than cis-men. It would also help to have different roles for which people could serve while also receiving an education--perhaps if they are not neurotypical or able-bodied, they could use their individual skills or talents to perform civic duties in creative ways (inspired by Greta Thunberg who has started a worldwide environmental movement and has Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Ady Barkan who has continued his political activism as a person with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis).
12/30/19	I ask the Commission to recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration.
12/30/19	I request that The Commission recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration.
12/30/19	Thank You
12/30/19	The current law is blatantly discriminatory based on gender and age. The current penalties under the existing law are not commensurate with the infraction. There is simply no justification for registering for a draft at all. Thank you
12/30/19	I'm writing to ask that you recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. Contrary to popular myth, a draft does not decrease the chances or duration or extent of wars.
12/30/19	The value of service comes from the benefit to society & the provider. Work that feeds, shelters, educates, cares for, fellow citizens makes everyone feel better. Military service does none of that. In fact it often leaves the server emotionally scarred. Repeal the military draft, spend that money on salaries for nurses, child-care workers, teachers, etc.

12/30/19	<p>Please do not extend the horrible practise of drafting young people to go to war and kill others, especially to young women. Get rid of it entirely.</p> <p>Eleanor Millard Canada</p>
12/30/19	<p>I was drafted out of college in the fall of 1968. Did two years one in infantry with First Air Cavalry, CoD-2/5 in Vietnam Oct 1969 to Oct 1970. My view of draft different than when inducted. I think EVERY citizen (regardless male,female,student or wealthy) should serve 2 years of service to America. Doesn't have to be in military. could be similar to Peace Corp or generally assisting America or countries in need of help. Those who choose NOT to participate should not be criminalized, but perhaps given notice that some form of Federal benefits (now or those yet to come from future legislation) might be diminished/reduced.</p> <p>Army happened at right time for me. Gave discipline and future focus to me. Left service a better person.</p>
12/30/19	<p>END THE DRAFT</p>
12/30/19	<p>I lived through the 60's & the 70's lost dear friends in the Vietnam War ! Our gov't wasn't acting on the principles that our nation was founded on ! The cost of that government boondoggle cost the lives of tens of thousands of young American lives and over a million Vietnamese ! If we continue than we haven't learned anything from that fiasco....</p>
12/30/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? The government needs to give them more flexibility. An 8 year commitment is too much for the iGen.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Weight/Fitness, Drugs charges, Medical conditions</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? Give them a higher rank upon joining.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. Mandate that EVERYONE register. Not just males.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, but it needs to go beyond military service. Civilian service should be an option for those unable/unwilling to be in the armed forces.</p>

12/30/19	<p>As a Viet Nam Era Volunteer, I am completely "anti-draft". Forced military service is about as Anti-American as you can get. When someone WANTS to serve their country, that's one thing; when they are FORCED to, it removes choice from the process. Anybody that thinks they should force people to fight for America hasn't got a clear picture of what "Liberty" means.</p>
12/30/19	<p>I oppose the military draft!</p>
12/30/19	<p>Sirs: Below are brief answers to your questions. I am emailing a letter which expands on my comments in more detail. Respectfully, Charles W. Gray</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? YES. A better understanding of public duty. 2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By providing a mechanism for all to serve at a young age (18-26) 3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Financial, lack of information on opportunities, totally volunteer versus required. 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? See comments above. 5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Very much in my opinion. Col David Hackworth, one of the most decorated soldiers in Vietnam, strongly felt that the draft had benefits to the services. 6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, women and all individuals should be required to register. 7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? YES. Other countries do this. If a variety of options for service are offered where persons view it as both a means to fund education and a way to gain work experience the requirement can have a positive view by the public.
12/30/19	<p>I believe the military draft serves no useful purpose. I do not believe it is necessary to national security. It should not be mandatory. No young person should be required to commit to a service which would require actions contrary to a person's beliefs or conscience. Young people will be inspired to perform public service when the cause is honorable and worthy. Military action is the least likely means of solving disputes.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Please end the selective service system. Let entrance into the military become totally voluntary. This seems better than a draft. Giving a choice is better.</p>
12/30/19	<p>I am writing to recommend that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; 2. All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; and 3. National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society. <p>Thank You James Sajdak Berwyn, IL</p>

12/30/19	<p>I am concert about the growing percentage of young people who are physically, mentally and emotionally disabled. The epigenetic influences of various pollutants is devastating. Soon we will have more children disabled than able bodied. How will we have anyone capable of making wise choices under pressure if we do not reverse course? Who will serve? Who will be able to guide the drones? Who will make the necessary moral decisions? Who will be able-bodied enough to serve? The economy and the military is headed for collapse. It is shocking to me that this is not a national security priority.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Subject :: Pass H.R. 5492.</p> <p>Mandatory service to the USA is no longer needed. And, we as a nation learned how divisive and disruptive this requirement is during the 60s, back when the tragic War in Viet Nam was raging.</p> <p>The US can encourage participation in service to our nation by behaving like a global partner to all nations, large and small, rich and poor, and irregardless of political bias / system of government. The US needs to display RESPECT for ALL other nations, rather than contempt. US Leaders need to lead by example and show how great this nation can be. There is presently no trust in our government, so demanding those who already do not respect the system to serve it is not going to end well. Elected public servants need to show, by example, what true public service looks like and how rewarding it can be. Then young Americans will want to be part of something good and just.</p> <p>Many Americans are tragically unaware of what our Constitution actually says and so therefore what our Laws, Civil Rights and Liberties truly are. That means these same poorly educated Americans also don't understand anybody else's rights either. That's dangerous. And many Americans are unable to discern fact from fiction / spin / lies when studying world affairs. It is my opinion that the USA would be safer and more prosperous by educating those who are living in underserved and under represented areas. Truth and a good knowledge of History will serve We The People better in the long run.</p> <p>We have all seen what happens when our own government is hijacked by politicians with an agenda other than doing service to ALL of us. So, we know that any request for our service, our participation, is hypocritical. We see that those in power are not attentive to our needs. They are not serving us as is their job description. Perhaps teaching young Americans how to participate in our democratic processes, like speaking at City Council Meetings, County Board of Supervisor's meetings and encouraging them to learn how to lobby would actually do more to help our nation than training them with weapons, a skill that is not a positive one for ALL of humanity, everywhere. If our young men and women could see that they are the beneficiaries of our nation's policies and that they have a say in how we ALL are governed, as a society, then my hypothesis is that will serve to be a far more positive motivator than a draft or required service where they will feel like their power is being taken away from them.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Thank you</p> <p>End draft registration. If govt can't persuade the public that a fight is worth volunteering for, then it should not be fought.</p> <p>Larry Turk Hendersonville, NC [REDACTED]</p>

12/30/19	<p>I left High School in the spring of 1969. Not having had an Army, Airforce, Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard Recruiter contact me, I had no alternate plan, or money for college, and no promised baseball scholarship in front of me. In desperation, I went to work in a mill producing wire.</p> <p>One and a half years later, I received my letter of conscription. While I would have preferred to have joined the Army, and receive training in how to fly either a helicopter, or fixed wing aircraft, or perhaps go into jet engine flight, I settled for an unskilled job in the AirForce, having a AFS (AirForce Specialty) as an Air Passenger Specialist/ Air Cargo Specialist.</p> <p>I would have considered joining the Army as well, if the Army had offered me the opportunity to go to Officer Candidate School, or Flight School. Although my nervous mother protested when I spoke of being drafted into the Army, it was only at her raising the roof, that I took the Air Force branch of the service. The recruiter had to call the Army, as I needed to get an AFS test over two days, before the Army would release me into the Air Force. Had the Army offered me Flight Training or Officer Training, I would have given the Army back year for year what they put out to train me. I know that in the case of Physicians, for each year of medical school the Army or Air Force pays for, the person must agree to stay in the service for that equal amount of time.</p> <p>On the issue of whether there should be a conscription or not. In my opinion, Congress does not get it. For my war, the Viet Nam war, you are wrong asking young men to fight in wars, Congress decide to fight, but are too uncertain to declare a war. Congress makes a mockery of military men and women when they do that.</p> <p>Last, when a war like Viet Nam comes along, Young men coming from High School, should be given opportunity to make something of them self while serving our country, by signing for service schools, or Officer or Flight Schools, and all men and women finishing their schools and training, having been in a particular Reserve unit, of the 5 main service units, should then be asked to fight a war, without a lottery. I favor 100 percent conscription, during war time, even if the service branches become flooded with personnel. During Peace time, like the present, we should only have an all volunteer force. But when war breaks out, only men and women being classified as 4F, should be left out of service to our country.</p> <p>Although I could have been of greater service to my country, non the less I am very proud of my service, having been more than willing to have served in Viet Nam, if so asked to.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dennis Fenstermacher</p>
12/30/19	<p>I left High School in the spring of 1969. Not having had an Army, Airforce, Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard Recruiter contact me, I had no alternate plan, or money for college, and no promised baseball scholarship in front of me. In desperation, I went to work in a mill producing wire.</p> <p>One and a half years later, I received my letter of conscription. While I would have preferred to have joined the Army, and receive training in how to fly either a helicopter, or fixed wing aircraft, or perhaps go into jet engine flight, I settled for an unskilled job in the AirForce, having a AFS (AirForce Specialty) as an Air</p>

	<p>Passenger Specialist/ Air Cargo Specialist.</p> <p>I would have considered joining the Army as well, if the Army had offered me the opportunity to go to Officer Candidate School, or Flight School. Although my nervous mother protested when I spoke of being drafted into the Army, it was only at her raising the roof, that I took the Air Force branch of the service. The recruiter had to call the Army, as I needed to get an AFS test over two days, before the Army would release me into the Air Force. Had the Army offered me Flight Training or Officer Training, I would have given the Army back year for year what they put out to train me. I know that in the case of Physicians, for each year of medical school the Army or Air Force pays for, the person must agree to stay in the service for that equal amount of time.</p> <p>On the issue of whether there should be a conscription or not. In my opinion, Congress does not get it. For my war, the Viet Nam war, you are wrong asking young men to fight in wars, Congress decide to fight, but are too uncertain to declare a war. Congress makes a mockery of military men and women when they do that.</p> <p>Last, when a war like Viet Nam comes along, Young men coming from High School, should be given opportunity to make something of them self while serving our country, by signing for service schools, or Officer or Flight Schools, and all men and women finishing their schools and training, having been in a particular Reserve unit, of the 5 main service units, should then be asked to fight a war, without a lottery. I favor 100 percent conscription, during war time, even if the service branches become flooded with personnel.</p> <p>During Peace time, like the present, we should only have an all volunteer force. But when war breaks out, only men and women being classified as 4F, should be left out of service to our country.</p> <p>Although I could have been of greater service to my country, non the less I am very proud of my service, having been more than willing to have served in Viet Nam, if so asked to.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dennis Fenstermacher</p>
12/30/19	I like the idea of a universal public service requirement --with a choice of whether to serve in a military or public service area. I think this would be great for improving understanding, civic participation, and for providing equal opportunities for all citizens
12/30/19	End draft registration once and for ALL.
12/30/19	I am opposed to making young men register for the service. We have a volunteer military and it should stay that way. Young women should not be required to register either.
12/30/19	I urge you to recommend that Congress enact HR 5492 to end draft registration. We need to end wars and concentrate on saving the planet. Rheta Johnson
12/30/19	The Afghan Papers confirmed what all of us already know; the US Department of Defense has become the department of offense since WWII. You must stop all of the illegal regime-change wars, stop spending so much money on bombs when people are homeless and don't have clean drinking water in so many parts of the US. Enough is enough.

12/30/19	<p>No more draft, compulsory registration, no more war from this war making empire of the USA. It solves nothing, destroys and pollutes the planet, displays the cruelty and absolute stupidity of those who perpetrate it. Did I mention absolutely unnecessary? We are in a permanent war economy, there is enormous profit in killing. Send the president's children first, and all the children of senators and representatives. Read "War Is A Racket" by USMC Brigadier General Smedley Darlington Butler.</p> <p>I am no longer a patriot, and feel shame about this country's behavior in the world. Start with Yemen.</p> <p>National "security" can be maintained by means other than the abominable destruction of others.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Wars have been made of lies to take others land, resources and governments.</p> <p>The first casualty of war is truth.</p> <p>Wars are not created by or for the people, but by politicians seeking monetary and ego status at the expense of the people.</p> <p>The first casualty of war is truth.</p>
12/30/19	<p>Wars have been made of lies to take others land, resources and governments.</p> <p>The first casualty of war is truth.</p> <p>Wars are not created by or for the people, but by politicians seeking monetary and ego status at the expense of the people.</p> <p>The first casualty of war is truth.</p>
12/30/19	<p>The Great War was supposed to be 'the war to end all wars', yet in the interest of profit from the production of munitions or the blatant imperialism of wanting to take what belongs to others we continue to send our children to die for far from 'noble goals' ... & now we want to force others to sacrifice their children for the interest of the few ??</p> <p>Un-inspiring & amoral !!</p>
12/31/19	<p>A Manifesto for American Men</p> <p>Louis Chandler, Ph.D.</p> <p>████████████████████</p> <hr/> <p>This declaration is both a celebration of, and a call for re-commitment, to traditional masculine virtues.</p> <hr/> <p>Men, you've been lied to! For decades, American men have been led into an illusion. Under the cover of political correctness, a radical feminist agenda has been advanced to dominate the national consciousness. Its aim: to feminize men, to steal from them those traditional masculine virtues and behavior.</p>

Men have been told they are too aggressive, too violent, too insensitive. They are told they have a soft feminine side that must be expressed and embraced. And all too many of our brethren have bought into this lie. Too many men have gone soft. Today's males are urged to become sensitive new-age males, even so-called "metro-males" with their cosmetics and purses, soft voices and caring eyes. Males who docilely accept the role of "house-husband." Males who cry at anniversaries and wedding showers, and at romantic movies. But is this the kind of men our women and our sons really want?

We need to reclaim our inner fathers. We need to rediscover what it is to be a man: to bear adversity in silence, to show courage in the face of fear, to bind with other men where a man's word is his bond, to put honor and country before self, to respect and protect women, to be loyal to friends and family, to mentor the young, and to face the end with dignity. In short, we must rediscover those essential qualities of men: stoicism, courage, and duty.

We need to talk less and do more. We need to use fewer adjectives and more verbs. We need to spend more time hiking and biking the trails with our sons, sitting in front of bonfires, playing catch, and talking about sports. In dealing with our sons, we must be firm in our discipline even as our fathers were with us. We need to create; to build things and fix things while our sons watch and learn. We need to teach our sons and daughters the meaning of love, honesty, kindness and sacrifice by our deeds -- not by talking about them.

In dealing with the women in our lives, we need to take back our intimate relationships back from the lawyers and the courts. We need to stand up with masculine pride, and refuse to be coerced into submissive role. We need to reclaim our heritage: to restore the balance between men and women. Men need to be men, and women need to be women -- that is our message.

Answers to your questions. I have written about these subjects extensively, am sorry I just came across your questionnaire on our Peace Corps Worldwide website at this late date:

1) A life of service involves that person in something larger than self, as I learned in Peace Corps, United Farmworkers Union, USEPA, and community organizing in my own community. There is nothing that compares to give back to our community, nation, the world.

2) Americans have plenty of desire to serve, if given the opportunity. Here are some of the many opportunities for youth to follow their ideals. The National Collaboration for Youth, an interagency council of the nation's 50 major youth-serving organizations, notes that its member agencies serve more than 40 million young people each year, making this system second only to the public schools in the number of youths served annually. Indeed, nearly 50 percent of eighth graders in the nationally representative sample surveyed by the U.S. Department of Education reported participation in programs sponsored by one of these groups.

There are more than 36,900 such youth organizations, according to Guidestar.org's web database, including such long-standing programs as 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, YWCA, Girls Incorporated, Camp Fire, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Junior Achievement. These organizations are

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creating the leaders of tomorrow who will bring order to the seeming chaos brought about by the Sixties' Tsunami of youthful energy that swept all before it.

So by publicizing our activities and continuing to serve in local organizations, where possible; such as Partnering 4 Peace, the joint PCorps/Rotary collaboration that I belong to, we can increase participation in public service.

- 3) Only barriers are lack of adequate publicity re peaceful public and national opportunities to serve, whereas military too much in the headlines.
- 4) Greater participation of those with critical skills would happen when our younger public is made aware of the many peaceful ways to serve that enhance national security and other public service needs of the nation! Very little PR done in this area, but too much in military area.
- 5) I would hope military draft not necessary, but some kind of voluntary service draft of non-military avenues to service like an expanded Americorps that also trains for future professions/vocations. We actual need fewer military bodies and more critical thinkers to work in R&D, the environment, critical infrastructure, and education. E.g., we have a public-funded teachers' corps that I believe should be expanded.
- 6) Modifications to Selective Service? I hope not, though know very little about it these days, as I was drafted in the sixties, but chose Peace Corps service instead.
- 7) Don't believe mandatory would work, unless in greater peace-making opportunities, unless danger of another world war, when every body is valuable? But government can certainly initiate more public service opportunities, especially at home, where we rank near bottom of K-12 education outcomes in developed countries (and many underdeveloped ones), in environmental research and protection, and especially in more economic literacy as a means to mitigate our record income-inequality to bring back the general prosperity of earlier post-WWII decades.

Sincerely,

Harlan Green

PopularEconomics.com

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?

Yes service to your country has value. If done properly it develop life long bonds between members, expose service members to people from all social and economic strata. instill discipline, pride, team work, understanding of others problems, physical training, and self confidence.

How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? The requirement of 2 years of service should be mandatory for all citizens and permanent residents.

What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?

1. Cost. This could be minimized. Food clothing, housing and all necessities would be provided by government. Members would be provided a small stipend for optional items. There are about 4million 18 year olds in the us each year, a 2 year program would contain 8 million participants. (the poverty level income in the US for one person is \$12000/year. Assume the cost of each member is \$10,000, then the cost would be \$80Billion per year. Say 100 billion to cover adiministration and other costs. Since the federal budget is 4.75 Trillion dollars. this is about 1.6% of the federal budget. These costs could be off set by having the service members do some productive work.

2. Selling the idea to the public. The idea would need to be sold as a valuable life experience, and method to bind the us citizens together with a common shared experience.

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?

Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? yes

Are modifications to the selective service system needed?

1. yes, regesiter men and women.

Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?

Yes. I see a service Program with the following features.

1. Upon graduation from High school or turning 18, All citizens and permanant residents would be inducted in to a national service progarm for 2 years with the following exceptions.

a. People volunteering to the military for the current minimum sign up time (4 years) would be exemp.

b. People could defer service to attend the university or other higher learning. IF the skills aquired were needed by the National Service. Upon graduation their servie of 2 years would begin.

c. 10% of military needs (2018 needs are 176000 active service 91,000 reserve service) would be drafted from the National service in to the military for 4 years. The "draftees" would come from members whos parents were in the top income bracket and would serve in the combat arms.

Program Outline

1. All members would go thru a stresfull basic traing modeled after the army's.

2.The organization would mirror the military and once assigned to a basic training unit this unit would stay together for the full 2 years.

3. After Basc training the unit would go to traing to cover their assigned jobs. LIKE MOS training. The training could cover; forest fire fighting, Construction skills to repair nations roads and national park needs, Monitor the borders to assist the border patrol, cleaning roads and down towns, responding to

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natural disasters, and others jobs where volunteers are needed.

4. For the duration of the 2 years members would live together and need to depend on each other to form bonds similar to those in military units.

I hope you consider my comments.

Sincerely

Steven Page

From: John Eichelberger

To: NCoS Info

Subject: On the need for mandatory service

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 8:21:12 PM

Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?

Yes

Are modifications to the Selective Service system needed?

Yes

How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?

Institute mandatory military service, like Israel.

What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?

A massive lack of unity across the American population. Social media is not being used to create bonds that transcend cyberspace, so we are losing our national identity. Mandatory service will reinvest our people with that national identity. I learned how to help and serve my fellow Americans during my time in service; I cannot imagine anyone that would not feel the same after a 2-4 year time of service

Does service have inherent value and, if so, what is it?

See above answer. And, I learned how to manage money; how to cooperate with people, even when we are not in 100% agreement; teaches humility; we learn & receive a sense of national and cultural unit, identity, & American brotherhood; leadership is taught, as we learn that to lead is to serve, and to serve is to get our brothers out alive and keep our homeland safe; we learn the love of ur country & how to respect & trust the those by our side, no matter the potential consequences, even should that consequence be our death, to stand by our brother/sisters in arms no matter the cost; we learn courage, commitment, honor, and loyalty to our country.

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Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable and feasible?

Absolutely & without doubt. 2 year minimum enlistment.
How does the U.S. increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?
No level of incentive,(save the removal of cellphone privileges until you serve) might encourage our (rather over privileged) youth to serve, as they value their own safety more than the safety & security of this nation over their own lives. Mandatory service, as in Israel, would benefit our country greatly.
Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
Get Outlook for Android

From: John Eichelberger [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, October 31, 2019 12:21:07 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: On the need for mandatory service

Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?

Yes

Are modifications to the Selective Service system needed?

Yes

How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?

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Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
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From: Greg Dolezal [REDACTED]
Sent on: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:41:29 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: We agree with the commission's goals.

Hi

I'm Greg and my wife's name is Pat. We have been reading the articles in Time's Oct 21-28 special edition about the military and came across the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service.

We have talked for years about the necessity of some type of required service to our country. My Dad was Army/OSS. My Mom worked in factories on the B17 & B29. I served six years in the Navy near the end of the Viet Nam war. Pat's father, Joe Nisbett, served in the Army.

We think the draft is a necessity ... not only to sign up, but to actually serve (Maybe not all in military combat ... but some type of 2 year service like the old CCC camps in the 30s & 40s). All men and women, except those with legitimate medical problems, should serve ... NOT just some picked out of many ... but ALL. Rich, poor, blue collar/non college, college people ... ALL. No loopholes!

Our country has dropped into the pit of obscene selfishness. They don't know what it takes to work, to serve, to be on equal status with everyone else, to learn discipline (getting to work on time, putting in a full day of work, NOT on the phone, or taking cigarette breaks) and simply grow up.

I've only heard of the whining people are doing in boot camps. I haven't seen it myself. The medical discharges because they don't want to grow up is ridiculous. The regular Navy boot camp was a joke back when I was in and I've heard it is worse now.

What is the best way to get involved?

Greg & Pat

12/31/19

---- Greg Dolezal ----

██████████
████████████████████

Truth in Recruitment calls for the Abolition of the Selective Service System
My name is Arianna Standish. I'm 19 years old, and a sophomore at UC Berkeley. I am representing Truth in Recruitment, which is a project of the Santa Barbara Friends (Quaker) Meeting. Our goal is to educate students, families, and school districts about alternatives to military careers, inform families of their children's privacy rights, and advocate for policies regulating recruiter presence on campuses.

Truth in Recruitment calls for the abolition of the Selective Service System. We shall oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. We do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion.

In April of this year, I traveled with Kate Connell, director of Truth and Recruitment, and my younger brother Callum to Washington DC for the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service Selective Service Hearings. My brother and I were the only draft age individuals present, and gave testimony during both days of the hearings to make our voices heard. I am on this call to let everyone know that women will not accept the draft if it is extended to us. We will resist. The draft is unjust because it limits individual freedoms, and promises lifelong punishments if you do not register. Young men should not be denied federal aid or a driver's license because they object to war, and I can guarantee you that if women had to register for the Selective Service, we would fight back.

During the hearing, I listened to panelists make remarks I thought were blatantly untrue, and I gave public testimony rebuking them. One panelist, the SSS director, Don Benton, remarked that registering for the Selective Service was a "rite of passage" that young men are excited to do. A rite of passage is voting for the first time, getting your driver's license, or going to prom. A rite of passage doesn't promise punishments if you don't do it. How can something be an exciting rite of passage if you aren't able to go to college or get your driver's license if you don't do it? The Selective Service is not on young people's minds. Most don't know that it still exists, let alone the consequences it brings if you don't comply.

Another panelist, Dr. Mark Coppenger, who was against extending the draft to women pointed out his granddaughters in the audience, and told commissioners he didn't want to see his granddaughters risk their lives in a war they have to fight against their will. When I spoke, I pointed out how hypocritical it was for him to be concerned about his

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granddaughters, but not his or someone else's grandsons. My little brother was with me at the hearing. I do not want him to lose his life in a war he was forced to fight. It is not just for anyone of any gender to be drafted against their will.

Extending the draft to women is not a feminist act. Eliminating the draft altogether is. It promotes justice and equality, because the low-income student won't be forced to register just to go to college, and young men won't feel that their lives are valued less than those of young women. I'm 19. If the draft is extending to women and I am told I must register, I will not. I would rather face the consequences than violate my moral values. I can ensure you than countless other young women will do the same.

The harsh penalties that someone faces if they don't register for the selective service are egregious, and should be eliminated. Penalties for noncompliance should be proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disabilities, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a driver's license, or to qualify for financial aid in advanced education or governmental employment. Representing a community with a large immigrant population, we feel it is particularly important to remove the disqualification for residents and undocumented people from the ability to apply for citizenship if they have not registered with the SSS. Removal of these penalties should be retroactive.

Here are some responses to questions that sent out for the NCMNPS conference call:

- How does your organization define war resistance?

For Truth in Recruitment, war resistance means spreading knowledge about the Selective Service and the military's presence in schools so young people and their parents are more informed. It also means helping people register as conscientious objectors, or helping them decide whether to register at all. War resistance also means voting for government officials who wish to end wars, and protesting ongoing wars.

- Can you share, in your view, what should be the government's role in providing for the country's national security?

The government's role in providing for the country's national security is funding it, and making the pathway available and desirable for those who wish to take it. That means providing funding for a recruit's college education, or paying a veteran's health care bill. This makes the military a viable option, and we will not be short on volunteers.

- In your view, are there any circumstances when drafting Americans would be necessary or feasible?

No. We have the largest military and have no shortage of volunteers. If there were a national crisis, and the military was in need of more recruits, I guarantee there would be an overwhelming number of people ready to serve.

- What alternatives would you propose if there weren't enough volunteers for military service?

I honestly don't think there will ever be a shortage of volunteers. If there was a shortage, the government should make service more desirable, like giving a signing bonus, ensuring service would be short-term, or create benefits for the volunteer's family. I think the key is to make more people want to serve if there is a shortage.

Threat of punishment or forced enlistment will not work, and people will resist.

- Assuming the U.S. government retains the Selective Service System, what changes, if any, should be made?

Truth and Recruitment does not think we should retain the Selective Service System, we should abolish it. It is outdated and unnecessary. If the system has to stay in place, then there needs to be an option on the form to file as a conscientious objector. Right now, that doesn't exist, and right now conscientious objectors have to build a case file proving their pacifism in case there is a draft. I would also remove the penalties people face if they refuse to register. It is unfair that young men can be denied federal aid for college, be denied their drivers license, be unable to hold a government job, and face jail time or a hefty fine all because they don't want to fight in a war against their will.

If the Selective Service is retained, then the harsh penalties that someone faces if they don't register for the selective service must be eliminated. Penalties for noncompliance should be proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disabilities, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a driver's license, or to qualify for financial aid in advanced education or governmental employment. Representing a community with a large immigrant population, we feel it is particularly important to remove the disqualification for residents and undocumented people from the ability to apply for citizenship if they have not registered with the SSS. Removal of these penalties should be retroactive.

The commission should restore benefits to those who were wrongly accused of willfully refusing to register, But beside those past events, there should be no benefits denied for those who refuse to register. Undocumented immigrants and other residents who did not register should have their path to citizenship restored.

- If the government keeps a registration system in some form, what is your view

	<p>about extending registration to women? Again, it should be abolished. If it is extended to women, be prepared for resistance. Women, like men, don't want to have to risk their lives against their will, and will fight back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? The barriers to military service may include matters of conscience, as for example being required to serve in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, endangered health, changes in family, personal necessities, development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault, statistically higher chances for becoming suicidal, and violation of personal life philosophies. <p>I hope that you take time to reflect on my statement my answers to the questions posed your commission. The abolition of the Selective Service is something that many organizations, like the ones on the conference call, advocate for. Be assured that if Selective Service registration is extended to women, we will not accept it, and will resist.</p>
12/31/19	<p>Truth in Recruitment calls for the Abolition of the Selective Service System</p> <p>My name is Arianna Standish. I'm 19 years old, and a sophomore at UC Berkeley. I am representing Truth in Recruitment, which is a project of the Santa Barbara Friends (Quaker) Meeting. Our goal is to educate students, families, and school districts about alternatives to military careers, inform families of their children's privacy rights, and advocate for policies regulating recruiter presence on campuses.</p> <p>Truth in Recruitment calls for the abolition of the Selective Service System. We shall oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. We do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion.</p> <p>In April of this year, I traveled with Kate Connell, director of Truth and Recruitment, and my younger brother Callum, to Washington DC for the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service Selective Service Hearings. My brother and I were the only draft age individuals present, and gave testimony during both days of the hearings to make our voices heard. I am on this call to let everyone know that women will not accept the draft if it is extended to us. We will resist. The draft is unjust because it limits individual freedoms, and promises lifelong punishments if you do not register. Young men should not be denied federal aid or a driver's license because they object to war, and I can guarantee you that if women had to register for the Selective Service, we would fight back.</p> <p>During the hearing, I listened to panelists make remarks I thought were blatantly untrue, and I gave public testimony rebuking them. One panelist, the SSS director, Don Benton, remarked that registering for the Selective Service was a "rite of passage" that young men are excited to do. A rite of passage is voting for the first time, getting your driver's license, or going to prom. A rite of passage doesn't promise punishments if you don't do it. How can something be an</p>

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12/31/19

From: hilda richy [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:41:28 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: My comment on draft registration

Please end draft registration:

Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women;
All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; and
National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.

Thank you,
Hilda Richey

12/31/19

From: Sanford [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:37:13 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: The Draft

Why is it that enough young people do not volunteer to serve in the military? Is it them or the government?

Illegal wars, wars of aggression, wars for resources, wars to divert the American people from government corruption and/or incompetence, wars to satiate pride and ego, wars based on lies, wars based on profit, wars based upon executive power and not on the constitutional war making power of Congress , and

wars based upon faux self- defense, do not inspire.

If an enemy state attacks the US, the volunteers will flood the recruitment offices and war bonds will be purchased by patriotic Americans. If wars were initiated only in strict compliance with law, there would be no shortage of volunteers. And there would be no need for the draft. If there were not enough volunteers it would be because of US history of the government lying Americans into war and the people believing that another war cry is the crying of wolf again.

End draft registration and the draft Now!

Sanford Kelson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ted Cohan [REDACTED]
Sent on: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 10:50:57 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Military Draft

I was drafted on 01September1967 and was discharged on 16June1969. I joined the USAR in December of 1977. I was mobilized twice for the War on Terror, the first time in 2002 for 1 years and again in 2004 for 18 months. I retired on 06November2005 at the rank of CW4. I absolutely believe a military draft is necessary for the security of the Country. I think the draft brings in a higher quality of people into the military.

12/31/19

Sent from my iPhone

From: James Engel [REDACTED]
Sent on: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:35:54 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draftee

Hi, saw the ad in my VVA magazine for Nov/Dec. Yes, got my "Greetings Letter" back in June 1966. I'd screwed around in my sophomore year at Portland State college. Buying a '58 MGA to zip around, during school hours, in the West Hills of Portland didn't help! I "lost" my deferment.

I'd grown up during the 50's watching the Army show "The Big Picture" so I was kinda Army primed. My father had served in the Army Air Corps in WWII in Canada & the Aleutian Islands. Besides I had a number of older cousins who served either in Army or Navy.

I felt that I had an obligation to serve the US of A!! I actually went to draft board & volunteered for immediate induction. The rest is history 50 some years ago. Yes, 'Nam had an "affect" on me but it was my character that determined what "effect" that experience had on the rest of my life.

I feel a good basic training course followed by a few months of the "Army life" wouldn't hurt these poor little lamb millennial's!!! Give them a years free junior college as a "thank you".. Still proud...James R. Engel - [REDACTED] (sir).....

12/31/19

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 11:27:05 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Insight to military draft

To whom it may concern,

I was a long-haired free spirit when I received my draft noticed one week before Christmas 1967. I remember the day clearly. I was ordered to report to 401 N Broad St, Philadelphia, Pa. I remember a 19 year old young man standing in a room with 20 to 30 young men my age. When asked, I raised my right hand and repeated a solemn oath to serve my country in the United States Army. I affirmed to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and obey the orders of the President of the United States. After taking the oath those who raised their right hand were ask to take one step forward. That one step was the beginning of a two year obligation in the Army and ultimately for me, Vietnam. Over the years I have struggled with my belief in the Vietnam War. I have never wavered in my reason to serve or my belief in these United States. I didn't have to take a step forward. I chose not to back step, go to jail, be a protester or disappeared to Canada. As I raised my right hand I was reminded of the words of the 35th, President Kennedy. I don't know why his words resonated in my head "Ask not what your country can do for you-ask what you can do for your country ". I believed those words then as I believe them today.

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Democrat/Republican I served because I was called to serve. As a United States Citizen, a Patriot, a Veteran. I believe the American Flag should never be disrespected. The Pledge of Allegiance brings tears to my eyes. Perhaps I am an extremist, an extremist who believes, In my country.

I believe in the draft. Not necessarily the Military. Every young person male/female of college age should be required to sign up for the draft. Use the sign up as a way to send a message that instills encouragement to serve. Severing ones country is a gift, not an obligation. Our colleges have become institutions of intolerance and hate. The gift of service can be used to repay the gift of a federally funded college tuition. Young people, at an early age should be taught love of country. They need a reason to believe. Today that reason does not exist. The internet reaches every school and household in this country use it to send the message.

Put a limit on the number of overseas deployments a member of the military can participate in. With careful consideration Special Opps would be the exception. War, is like a narcotic drug. Our Warriors are easily attracted and addicted to the narcotic of War. We train Warriors to kill the bad guy and then punish him for what he is trained to do. We haven't learned from Vietnam, I remember Lt Calley's, My Lia Massacre. I understand how it happened. Is it unforgivable? We treat drug addiction as a disease. The three recent presidential pardons are a testament to the repercussions of our addiction to War, our disrespect for those in leadership over us and the insanity of Afghanistan, 18 years in endless battle.

I served in the 6/32 Artillery, Radio Operator, Vietnam 1968-1969. By extending my tour in Vietnam I was given the opportunity of an "Early Out". With my tour complete so was my military obligation. However, I have lived with AO, IHD, since 1983 when I had my first MI. I was 35 years old. No history of family heart disease. Agent Orange has left it's scar, a battle this Veteran will not win. My scar, in some ways a gift from my solemn oath to serve. "My country right or wrong my country". Land of the Free, Home of the Brave.

Respectfully,

Gary Pizzuto

Sent from my iPad

From: CRAIG NELSON [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, November 28, 2019 12:30:26 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: DRAFT

Follow up: Follow up
Start date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 12:00:00 AM
Due date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 12:00:00 AM

I RECEIVED MY DRAFT NOTICE THE DAY I GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL IN MAY OF 1965. WHEN ARRIVING HOME FROM THE CEREMONIES I RECEIVED A DRAFT NOTICE ORDERING ME TO REPORT IN AUGUST ON A DATE WHICH WAS THE LAST DAY OF MY STATE BAR REQUIRED EXAM. I WENT TO THE WOMAN AT THE DRAFT BOARD IN DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS TO ASK FOR AN EXTENSION OF MY REPORTING DATE SO I COULD FINISH MY BAR EXAM AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LOUISIANA BAR. I SPOKE TO A CATHLEEN STELLARS WHO SUMMARILY DISMISSED MY REQUEST SAYING "I NEED BODIES" AND DENIED MY REQUEST SUMMARILY IN A VERY DEMEANING AND HOSTILE MANNER. I SAID I WAS WILLING TO SERVE MY COUNTRY AS AN OFFICER IN THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS. UPON RECEIVING HER MESSAGE I FOUND THE NEW ORLEANS RECRUITING STATION FOR ALL ARMED FORCES. UPON ENTERING THE FIRST DESK I CAME WAS ONE STAFFED BY AIR FORCE RECRUITERS ASKING IF THEY NEEDED LAWYERS. THEY SAID YES AND SET UP A PHYSICAL EXAM AT THAT TIME. UPON PASSING SAME I WAS SWORN IN AS A FIRST LT IN THE AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE CORPS. I WENT ON ACTIVE DUTY ON JANUARY 2, 1965 AND DISCHARGED ON JANUARY 2, 1969 AS A CAPTAIN.

I WAS PROUD TO SERVE MY COUNTRY. BUT THE PROCESS OF GETTING IN THE AIR FORCE WAS VERY UNSETTLING MADE BY MS STEELARS AT THE DRAFT BOARD. I MY OPINION EVERY MAN IN THE USA SHOULD SERVE TIME ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE COUNTRY'S ARMED FORCES. A PERSON OWES A DUTY TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY. AM VERY DISAPPOINTED MANY DO NOT THINK THIS WAY. OUT OF MY CLASS OF 100 GRADUATION FROM TULANE LAW SCHOOL ONLY 5 DID SO. I HOLD THEM IN VERY LITTLE RESPECT TO THIS DAY.

ARMED FORCES VIA THE DRAFT OR VOLUNTARY SERVICE IS CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONS SECURITY.

CRAIG R NELSON
[REDACTED]

12/31/19

From: Sdassaro [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, December 1, 2019 9:52:39 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: VVA Newsletter

Dear Sir/Madam:

12/31/19

The article in the VVA newsletter asked about experiences and the Selective Service System consideration of the military draft or draft contingency as a necessary component of our U.S national security.

I am a proud Viet Nam Vet. I was drafted in 1968 and after Boot camp and AIT, I was in Viet Nam until the end of August 1969 and was proud to serve in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. I had obtained a scholarship when I graduated High School and went to Hunter College. I took ridiculous courses, including Psychology; European History and French to name a few. At the time I was in my first semester and working nights, my brother was drafted in the Marines and was sent to Viet Nam where he was wounded.

I left college for a full time job to help support my mother and sister. When my brother returned, I was then drafted.

In answer to the above questions, I feel strongly that we should always have a registered military draft in case of a major war. We have an outstanding, Volunteer Military, but we never know what the future will hold. I strongly feel that with all of the high tech weapons and equipment that we have today, that all, I repeat all men should have an equal call to duty regardless if they are in college or not. Colleges today offer stupid courses that anyone can take, to avoid the draft. News stories galore talk about college parties and the resulting lack of learning.

I also feel, that all men should either have military or some kind of national service in order to enjoy all of the benefits of being an American. Many High Schools and Colleges require some kind of public service. Why should we not have it be a national type of service. If the students of today, are really learning, then they can put their knowledge to good use. If they are just taking up space in classrooms for whatever reason(s) then they may eventually learn the importance of giving back to our country. As President Kennedy aptly stated, Ask not what your country can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your country.

By the way, when I returned home, I spent 10 1/2 years going to night colleges for a BA and an MBA degree while working full time. I owe it to my Military service to "see the light" and doing the right things.

Sincerely,
Sal Dassaro

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, November 28, 2019 2:49:36 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Were you drafted article in the VVA magazine dated November 2019

I was drafted on September 29, 1967. I was 22 years old.
That previous May I graduated from the Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, MO, with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology.

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My mother gave me a trip to Germany to visit my father and other relatives as a graduation present. Knowing full well that I might be drafted, I visited my draft board in Olathe, Kansas and met with Grace E. Myers, the draft board clerk to let her know of my travel plans.

I also applied to the Air Force OCS, thinking this would be a safe alternative to the US Army.

I returned from Germany in late August 1967 and was presented with a letter for a pre-induction physical at the Kansas City Armed Forces Induction Center for a physical in early September.

The Air Force also sent me a letter accepting me as a candidate for OCS.

A week later I received my induction notice, dated September 12, 1967. I had the impression that my paperwork must have been expedited by my draft board because of my European trip.

The day of induction a bus load of inductees were shipped down to Fort Leonard Wood, in the Missouri Ozarks. The trip lasted over 12 hours and most of us were shell shocked with the whole induction process.

During the first week, I took numerous tests and always felt that I did well on them. I was sent to a one week leadership class and was made a squad leader at the end.

I was assigned to Company B, Fourth Battalion, Third Brigade and graduated from basic training on 14, December 1967.

Basic was relatively uneventful except for a couple of events.

One: I was very sick with a 104 fever and had to be taken to the base hospital. My mother ended up visiting me and she was shocked. From that experience I learned that if you have a fever with high temps, take lots of cold showers.

The second event occurred to a different squad than mine. A little background is needed. The majority of our inductees, were draftees from the South side of Chicago. One evening, three of them raped a member of their squad.

I was assigned to protect the victim. All four were sent to the stockade. Much later we found out that all 4 had to repeat basic training again.

I always felt that the victim should not have been treated so badly.

Near the end of basic I had to report to our training officer, and he notified me that I will be assigned to Ft. Sill for AIT training and will need an "atomic security clearance". Needless to say, I was a happy camper with that news.

When two FBI agents showed up at my mother's apartment for a security clearance interview, it certainly scared her. Every one of our neighbors were also visited.

On new years day 1968. I began my training to become a Pershing Missile Maintenance Specialist (21G20). This particular class were also all college graduates draftees. Many of our class were also slated to become instructors.

We graduated in early May 1968. I and a number of others were also promoted to Specialist (E4's)

My specialty as an instructor were two courses, one being the propulsion course, and the second was a guidance and control course for what was call the P and P1 systems..

In early 1969, I was promoted to Specialist 5 (E-5) and finished my Army career one month early to get my Master of Science degree in Industrial Technology. I feel that my Army career was very helpful in my career as a Safety, Environmental and Loss Prevention Manager working for a Major insurance Company, a Chemical and Paint Company, a Safety Manager for an Electric Utility and finally as a Safety and Environmental Manager working for the US Treasury Department and ending my career working in the Department of Commerce.

While working in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2006, a lady first ever mentioned to me "thank you for your service". I nearly fell off my chair, as I had never heard that in the 35 years since leaving the Army. Now I hear this phrase almost on a daily basis. Too bad it took so long. On a postscript: I was offered a \$ 10,000 retention bonus to reup. I still wonder how my life would have been had I continued my Army career in 1969.

Regards, Tom Altvater

From: David E. Townes [REDACTED]
Sent on: Saturday, November 30, 2019 4:37:30 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: WERE YOU DRAFTED?

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Yes, I was drafted. Exempted during college and medical school years, my number came up following internship in 1964. I elected for the Navy and assignment to the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. I served as Battalion Surgeon 1/5 until May 20, 1965 when Division Surgeon told me I was being transferred to 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, part of the 15,000 man 'Seventh Marine Regimental Landing Force' departing out of phase from San Diego on May 24, for "Southeast Asia, points undetermined"! A hectic three days, to say the least! But I was reassured when LBJ announced on national TV on May 22 that "We are not escalating the war in Vietnam"!

Nonetheless, we all spent 8 weeks in intensive training on Okinawa. Our 1/7 was shipped to Vietnam, landing at Chu Lai 'over the nets' but unopposed on August 14, 1965, followed by the entirety of the SMRLF, obviously just to have tea and crumpets with the natives!? But, apparently Commanding General Lewis Walt felt otherwise, and on August 18 ensued Operation Starlite - The first full force American offensive of the Vietnam War. I later learned that LBJ again spoke on national TV on August 18 "We are escalating the war in Vietnam"!!?

For Starlite, 1/7 was the back-up battalion, activated for mop-up on day three. But, my 1/7 BAS was the designated primary evacuation center. Functioning with one instead of proscribed two MDs, we were immediately overwhelmed with casualties I was under-trained, horribly under equipped, no anesthesia capabilities, and no further evacuation back-up until day 3 when a couple of Navy ships arrived with OR and trained surgeons. I later learned that most of the 245 casualties and all of the 47 KIA came through us. 'Welcome to War!!' Fortunately my remaining 9 months in country were much less stressful.

My Vietnam War experiences were almost totally repressed and sublimated for 30 years until sought out by several 1/7 Marine buddies - - attended several reunions, including fantastic weekend in D.C. for Medal of Honor Award presentation to one of my Corpsmen, Robert Ingram. In the process and passage of years, most of my 'memories of Vietnam' have become pleasant, and I'm extremely proud of my service - helped make me a "better man"! And, I'm proud to be an adopted Devil Dog Marine Combat Veteran.

12/31/19

Following my retirement from medical practice, I briefly toyed with the idea of running for Congress on a single issue ticket - "Universal Conscription" - just to get the subject out there for consideration. Though I understand the 'Hows and Whys' of the time, I deplore the end of the Draft in 1972.

Particularly these days seeing the misguided goals and aspirations of so many of our youth, I feel strongly the value and need for universal conscription for all male and female US youth for a period of one to two years, upon finishing high school or reaching age 18. Multidimensional per choice military; community service, both local and national; foreign service in a variety of fields. All this, of course, contingent upon modifications of the Selective Service System.

Thank you for the invitation for me to sound off. I'll look forward seeing the Commission's final report.

David E Townes M.D.,MSc. - former Lt.(MC) USNR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: EoP MILED Clerk [REDACTED]
Sent on: Saturday, November 30, 2019 11:59:07 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>; NCoS Media <media@inspire2serve.gov>; Rachel Rikleen <Rachel.L.Rikleen@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: NATO: Military Committee: ACM Stuart Peach via NCI Agency Info Officer <info@ncia.nato.int>; Administrative Tribunal <mailbox.tribunal@hq.nato.int>; SPS Info <sps.info@hq.nato.int>; Media Operations Center <MOC@hq.nato.int>; NATO Military Committee via Shape: Public Affairs Office <shapepao@shape.nato.int>
Subject: Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01
Attachments: 19-05-10_LJvLS_Afd-TRC_CrtSvc-Pg16.pdf (348.78 KB)

Sent Separately:

TO: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service Commissioners

TO: Rivera Sun, Peace Voice Director

TO: President Donald Trump

CC: ACM Stuart Peach, NATO Military Committee.

Re: Inspire to Serve: Public Comments Re: Public Law 114-328: Dec 23 2016: National Defence Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2017: V: Military Personnel Policy: F: National Commission on Military, National and Public Service; via Peacevoice Info: It's time. End the draft, once and for all.

President Donald Trump, NCMNPS Commissioners, Rivera Sun & Peace Voice:

12/31/19

EoP Re: National Comm on Military, National and Public Service Enquiry.

EoP MILED Clerk – on behalf of EoP Applicants [eop-applicants] – Ecology of Peace Truth and Reconciliation (“EoP TRC”) to End the Abel and Kane Cold War strategic and tactical – sincere peacenik / honourable warrior [eop-rh-fr] – recommendations to Commanders in Chief of NATO, Red Army and People’s Liberation Army [lj-v-ls] is to form an EoP Axis [eop-axis] alliance to implement EoP Scientific and Cultural law as international law, via EoP UN Resolution [PDF pp.25-66/70: eop-un-res]; to enable orderly and humane deindustrialization and depopulation by (a) requiring all citizens of all races, religions, nations, to breed and consume below ecological carrying capacity limits; or be humanely eliminated from the planetary genepool; (b) nationalizing all property and providing all responsible freedom oath citizens: (i) cultural law self rule homelands for groups with subjective racial, religious & gender identities; and (ii) a property ration to enable their shelter and survival self-sufficiency to enable the rebuilding of a relocalized low-tech organic agrarian sustainable future.

With regard to military/national/public service:

The implementation of EoP Scientific and Cultural law would allow for orderly and humane abolition of tax funded standing armies and political representatives to be replaced by responsible freedom citizen militia and political representatives.

Sincere peacenik / honourable warrior citizens can sign their unconditional or conditional cooperator EoP Axis Oaths [eop-axis-oath] to provide their Heads of State with an EoP Axis Alliance: EoP UN Resolution mandate.

EoP – Exit Economic Apartheid Ecocide Babylon Law – UN Resolution:

EoP UN Resolution is the updated version of the Ecology of Peace Truth and Reconciliation submission submitted to Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In 1999 I filed a Submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (“TRC”), promising to donate my inheritance to the TRC; in support of sincere – racial, religious, class and gender – land and/or economic inequality reform reconciliation in South Africa.

» EoP Leg Sub: 16 May: CH 45/19: LJ v CRLRC Court Filing [PDF].

EoP UN Resolution is the updated version of the Ecology of Peace Truth and Reconciliation submission submitted to President George W Bush re: US v Timothy McVeigh.

[34] In May 2001, I wrote a letter to President Bush requesting President Bush to suspend Timothy McVeigh’s execution pending OKC bombing Truth and Reconciliation, to facilitate honest forgiveness and truth-seeking problem solving related to the US domestic and foreign policy causes of the OKC bombing. If the OKC TRC proceedings did not grant Timothy McVeigh amnesty, they would choose to sentence Timothy McVeigh and myself to death.

» EoP Leg Sub: 16 May: CLJ v LS Court Filing: LJ Affidavit [PDF]

A similar – Braveheart Shibumi Satori Honour Trial Lawfare [braveheart-ss] – offer was made to (a) US, Afghanistan and Taliban officials in October 2001 on behalf of providing Osama bin Laden a free and fair trial after I became aware of the Taliban’s offer to extradite Osama bin Laden to the International Criminal Court at the Hague, for his alleged involvement in the World Trade Center Attacks; on the condition he was granted a free and fair trial by a jury of his peers; (b) to Norwegian officials and Anders Breivik in 2011 after I became aware that Breivik’s lawyer was endorsing efforts to deny his client a necessity defence in favour of a mental insanity defence. Anders Breivik’s Thank you letter [PDF].

The EoP UN Resolution is also the updated version of the Ecology of Peace Amicus submitted to the South African Constitutional Court in CCT 23-10: The Citizen v Robert McBride.

[12] The Ecology of Peace Truth and Reconciliation (“EoP TRC”) to End Abel and Kane Cold War Pro Se Amicus submitted – with consent from SA Concourt Justices [PDF] – to the South African Constitutional Court in CCT 23-10: The Citizen v Robert McBride [tc-v-rm] argued that South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission was negligent and/or a fraud, denying both sides – Apartheid and Anti-Apartheid – an honest enquiry into the root — clauses of international law enabling procreation and consumption above ecological carrying capacity limits — causes of all planetary racial, religious and class resource conflict.

» EoP Leg Sub: 18 Sep: Court Filing: LJ v Speaker: George Council & Four Others.

EoP TRC Negotiations correspondence is published at EoP Leg Sub [eop-leg-sub.tygae.org.za]

Respectfully,

Lara Johnson,
Pro Se, EoP Applicant [EoP Oath PDF]

Sent per electronic notice to:

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service:

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

Email: NCMNPS (info@inspire2serve.gov); Media (media@inspire2serve.gov); Rachel Rikleen (rachel.l.rikleen@inspire2serve.gov);

Rivera Sun, Peacevoice:

Rivera Sun (info@riverasun.com); Peace Voice Director (PeaceVoiceDirector@gmail.com)

	<p>President Donald Trump: Donald Trump Counsel: Rudolph Giuliani via Giuliani Partners (info@giulianipartners.com); JoAnn Zafonte (JoAnn.Zafonte@giulianipartners.com); Robert Costello (rjc@dhclegal.com); Jon Sale (jon.sale@nelsonmullins.com);</p> <p>ACM Stuart Peach, NATO Military Committee: NATO: Military Committee: ACM Stuart Peach via NCI Agency Info Officer (info@ncia.nato.int); Administrative Tribunal (mailbox.tribunal@hq.nato.int); SPS Info (sps.info@hq.nato.int); Media Operations Center (MOC@hq.nato.int); NATO Military Committee via Shape: Public Affairs Office (shapepao@shape.nato.int)</p>
12/31/19	<p>11/27/2019 's</p> <p>I was drafted Nov. 1, 1967. I was a junior at Phillips University, Enid Oklahoma. I went to Ft. Polk for basic and Ft. Bliss for AIT. I graduated from basic and ait as the outstanding graduate. My parents were sent a letter from the CO. I spent 11 months in Viet Nam with the 1/44 arty, Dong Ha. I was injured Feb 9, 1969 and spent until June 6, 1969 in various army hospitals, discharged at that date with 30% disability.</p> <p>When I arrived in Dong Ha Sargent Major of Battery C assigned me to be his helper and take over for the current battery clerk, jeep driver, mail driver, and ammo APC driver. We received multiple rockets from north viet nam daily. I survived snipers and ambushes mainly when traveling to Con Tien and our firebase below camp evens (101st) A3.</p> <p>I had finished 21/2 yrs of college and scored well on the GT testing. I worked with three types of soldiers in the states and viet nam. White men, mainly from the south, black men from south and large cities, and NCO's of all races.</p> <p>When I received my draft notice I was not allowed to finish that semester (fall 1967) when I had a 4.0 at midterms. I applied for a 1 SC deferment to finish and was denied.</p> <p>The only collage grads I met were officers. Some fresh out of OCS and some from the states which were there to get "combat experience".</p> <p>I was adopted from St. John, NB, Canada in 1945. My father was an electrical engineer for GE who grew up in Oklahoma. My mother was a greek and latin teacher who was born in Abaline, Ks. My parents were very proud of the United States. Prior to my naturalization in first grade my parents had me learn the states, capitals, and US presidents. They said the judge would ask about these subjects. The day in court the judge came down off the bench and shook my hand and that was it.</p> <p>Because I was born in Canada I had a Canadian passport. When I was drafted I could have legally gone to Canada. However, with my upbringing, I never thought to not accept the draft and join the military for my country.</p> <p>I support a universal draft to include all at 18 yrs old. This would include both males and females. There would be no exceptions for people who think they are important, are rich, or politically connected. This was the case in the viet nam war. This left a large proportion of poorer people and black males. People who refuse combat roles can work in the military roles. The bottom line is that everyone in the US should do their share to support and participate in the military in multiple roles.</p> <p>NOTE: My 30% disability allowed me to be eligible for VA Vocational Rehabilitation. This program allowed me to finish college, finish OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SCHOOL (I had always wanted to be a DO)</p> <p>And paid a stipend of \$250. Month. I then finished a rotating internship, internal medicine residency, and pulmonary fellowship.</p>

CA SMOOT DO FCCP FAASM FACOI
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: James Foster [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, November 28, 2019 7:28:56 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: James M Mitchell [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Comments
Attachments: Draft Information.docx (18.27 KB)

See below and or attached

Question: Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U. S. national security?

The answer is yes and the answer is not only for national security but the answer has effect within the existence of the continuation of American culture as it has been throughout prior years. It is true that everything must change and change is good, however change can create unwanted aspects of what is being protected as national security. Comments are next under:

The draft system was eliminated in early 1970 or there about, since then we have had three distinct components of America to occur.

- One is that there are more single family homes led by females than when the draft was active.
- Second, there has been a continuous growth in prison population by younger individuals than prior to the elimination of the draft.
- Lastly, there has been a growing non appreciation of American traditions and rights displayed publicly.

12/31/19

To further support the above the statistics bear out some relation to the changes above.

- There are as of 2019 more than 177,000 Federal inmates serving prison time.
- Of that number 71% are at the age of 46 or less which fits in the range of the years that existed without the draft.
- The draft did more than allowed individuals to participate in protecting national security; it gave them a structured environment to experience the developmental years of entering adulthood.

It is the opinion of the writer that if we want to maintain some American traditions we need the draft to balance the percent of new comers to America (immigration) who are facing adulthood without understanding or participating in true American culture.

In closing we need to seek the draft for a better America going forward

From: Tom Drey [REDACTED]
Sent on: Friday, November 29, 2019 6:03:51 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: The Draft

In a recent copy of VVA Vietnam veterans of America magazine ,said that your commission would like to hear from Draftees. I was drafted in 1967. President Johnson was drafting 60,000 per month. I served 9 months in Vietnam, got 3 month early out of the Army to attend grad. school under the GI bill. In my opinion those who were drafted (prefix US) were as good or better soldiers than those who enlisted (prefix RA) With the Draft the Army could take back doing functions that have been turned over to Halliburton, and the cost would be millions less. The draft could teach young men skills such as discipline, firearms, social skills as well as job skills they could use when the got out. The draft might also help relieve some of the prison population. I believe Dick Cheney was instrumental in getting rid of the draft , Then took a job at Halliburton making millions.

12/31/19

12/31/19	<p>From: Terry/Connie Montanye [REDACTED] Sent on: Friday, November 29, 2019 1:09:41 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: draft</p> <p>I dropped out of college in 1966, because I just wasn't ready to be a good student. I volunteered for the draft, I guess because I thought I had a duty to my country and was in search of some adventure. I was drafted in 1966, trained at Ft. Ord, and Ft Benning. I went to Vietnam in November of 1966. I ended up at Camp Holloway in Pleiku. I was a mail clerk for one year. At the end of that year I extended so as not to go back to Georgia, and to get an early out. At Holloway we had at least two Assault Helicopter Companies. I volunteered to be a door gunner with the 119th from November 1967 to March 1968. It was an incredible adventure, and I was fortunate not to get hurt. I look at my time in the military as good for me, and I think I did my bit. I believe in service to country, and I think some sort of selective service should perhaps be required of every citizen. My only concern, and I don't know how you avoid this, is that there were years when our own leaders knew we could not win the war, and had lost faith. Yet many people continued to die on both sides. I know we were in a Cold War and I still don't know if the Domino Theory was valid. I just know, we have to be careful with the lives of those who are willing to risk their lives for their country.</p> <p>Thank You,</p> <p>Terry Montanye</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Dan Nussbaum [REDACTED] Sent on: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:04:40 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: National Service</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Monday, December 2, 2019 5:04:00 AM</p> <p>Technically, being a Physician, I was not drafted. However, had I not volunteered I would have been drafted and had the same duties medical responsibilities I had but with an Airman's pay and rank.</p>

I was very lucky. I had two years good clinical experience in a part of the country I came to love. Afterwards I settled in it, but unfortunately did not stay.

I think every young person including women should do at least two years of National Service. They would get to see different parts of the country and/or world, meet, work and live with different groups of people and perhaps learn a little discipline and a trade.

Also, if everybody faced the problem of combat equally, perhaps the country would not be engaged in the military adventurism like it is now.

Daniel Nussbaum II, M.D., FAAP
Retired Developmental Pediatrician
Rochester, New York

Tone can be misinterpreted in email. Please read my words with warmth, kindness, and good intentions.

From: Duane Coppeler [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, December 2, 2019 6:38:59 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Drafted

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Monday, December 2, 2019 6:50:00 PM

After three years of college & one year of embalming college plus serving my apprenticeships and getting my licenses, I was drafted. At the age of almost 23 1/2, I was the oldest draftee from my county, oldest in basic training and oldest in advanced individual training. As I knew how to type, my MOS was changed from medic to admin and made permanent party where stationed. When looking at my service record, I was recommended to apply for a direct commission and was turned down but had my choice of next duty station. Viet Nam was not one of them.

I was shipped overseas to the location of my choice and remained there for the rest of my time.

While in basic training, I felt that I would go to Viet Nam so enlisted for additional medical training and was accepted. My change of MOS was due to an opening in company headquarters.

Deferments allowed me to get my college education and obtain my goal of becoming a funeral director. Being the "old man" in my training sessions allowed me privileges not extended to younger men. I enjoyed my three years in the service and feel strongly that our country should have a draft and that all able-bodied individuals should be inducted. There are jobs for all, both men and women, and conscientious objectors. The military teaches, discipline, teamwork, innovation, and hard work. Serving in a foreign country shows what we have in the USA and how great it is to be from here. Appreciation for one's country is greatly enhanced. You don't know what you have until you live outside the U.S.A.

12/31/19

Duane Coppeler
[REDACTED]

From: Steve Jenne [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:55:32 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: I was drafted

I have a slightly different view on the draft than most of the other draftees during the Vietnam War. After I graduated from college, I was drafted into the Army on September 15, 1969. I am an "Army brat", and my Dad swore me into the Army at the recruitment depot in St. Louis, MO, in a private swearing-in ceremony. This was all a surprise to me, as my Dad had kept it a secret until the day of my induction. A photographer from the St. Louis Post Dispatch took numerous pictures, which I still have.

The irony of this is that my Dad was Colonel Loren E. Jenne, the Fiscal Procurement Officer for the entire state of Illinois, in the Adjutant Generals Corps of the Selective Service System, i.e., "the draft". I am quick to point out that my college degree and the fact that my father was a Colonel within the Selective Service System had zero positive effect on my military service. If anything, it was quite the opposite: I was assigned an M.O.S. of 11B10, and I served in the infantry with the 101st Airborne Division in I-Corps of northern South Vietnam. No privilege was ever afforded to me because I had a college degree or because my Dad was a Colonel, nor did I ever expect to receive such privilege. Moreover, my Dad would NEVER have even considered pulling any strings for my benefit during my stint in the military.

My answers to your question, "Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?" Yes, absolutely! I don't believe we could rely 100% on an all-volunteer military system. Many of my Army buddies were also draftees, and they ALL served with honor, distinction, and commitment to our national security. Keep the draft.

"Are modifications to the Selective Service System needed?" Yes. I believe that everyone should have to register for the draft upon their 18th birthday, including females. Our 19th amendment granted all women the right to vote; our 29th amendment could grant all women the right to serve our country in the military. That would mean that all women would have to register for the draft, just like all men have to do. However, I suggest that their military training be done separately, in all-female forces; interaction would only cause detrimental distraction.

12/31/19

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

Steve Jenne
[REDACTED]

From: George Rappolt [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:58:06 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: draft registration

End draft registration now, for everyone. Dismantle the registration apparatus and eliminate the existing records, so that the system cannot be easily re-started.

12/31/19

From: Tom Stokes [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 4:45:14 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: drafted during Vietnam War

I read a posted notice seeking commentary in the November/December issue of VVA Veteran. I was drafted in April, 1965 and went to basic training at FT.

12/31/19

Knox ,KY. I had been in contact with my draft board for over one year about every 3 months (I lived in Northbrook, IL., but I think the draft board was headquartered in DesPlaines, IL.) to get an idea when I would likely receive my draft notice. They were always very nice and ended up being very accurate as to my draft date, for which I was very appreciative. In time I learned all draft boards were not so friendly. My induction went smoothly, as did basic training. I did notice that my training company consisted of all draftees and we seem to have a less rigorous schedule than training companies consisting of those individuals who joined the Army. I found that interesting. Based on my test scores, educational background, and work history I was given the opportunity to volunteer to for MP school and an ultimate assignment to Sandia Base New Mexico. I accepted the opportunity and enjoyed becoming an MP and after AIT was sent to Sandia Base.. In December 1965 I was on a list to go to Vietnam and the 1st Cav (airmobile) I was eventually assigned to the 545th.MP Company of the 1st Cav., where I spent 12 1/2 months. I served with a vast majority of soldiers who had very similar backgrounds to mine, which I found very beneficial. I thought the draft was relatively fair and had no complaints.

Sincerely,
Thomas W. Stokes

From: Curtis Richardson [REDACTED]
Sent on: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3:07:02 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draft

Greetings,
I was drafted Dec 15, 1965 and spent 1967 in VN separating in Dec. 1977.

I real have no educated opinion on the need for restoring the Draft. I'll leave that up to the "intelligent" department.

What I wanted to comment on was, in my humble opinion, the country needs a mandatory period of say 2 years service right out of high school. Every female and male should serve there country in some fashion. There are endless positions needing support around the globe. Not only that, but imagine the education and life forming experiences obtained instead of floundering further in public education without direction or goals.

A win win in my book.
Curtis Richardson
The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him,
but because he loves what is behind him.

12/31/19

12/31/19

From: Nick DeLeo [REDACTED]

Sent on: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 10:59:32 PM

To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>

Subject: Vietnam War Draft

Dear Sir or Madame:

I was drafted into the United States Army in September 1972 and consequently joined the Army after basic training. Being one of the last men to be drafted I didn't serve in Vietnam. I have been very proud of my military service during a difficult and challenging time in our nation's history for those who chose or were chosen to serve our country during this unpopular war. It definitely was wrong for the pious anti war faction and media to blame service personnel for the war. Fortunately this disgraceful and despicable conduct would never be tolerated again by my generation of veterans. Young veterans are rightfully honored today for their military service.

I firmly believe that there should be a national service program in the United States that would include the military for all citizens upon attaining the age of 20. This would be all inclusive except for those with severe disabilities who would be unable to perform their duties. Diversity is a term that receives a significant amount of attention from those in power in the 21st Century. People from all backgrounds in society shall be required to serve our country without exception. It would greatly increase pride in our nation at a time when certain factions believe this isn't possible anymore or that we should be ashamed of our country.

Modifications to the Selective Service System have to be made to include women and even those with certain disabilities to be able to serve our country in any capacity. A military draft is a vital and necessary component to the national security of the United States and must be instituted to protect the nation from all hostile foreign influences and potential aggression. A national service program would include programs such as the Peace Corps, Vista, Ameri-Corps, VA facilities, nursing homes, orphanages, juvenile detention facilities and any other program or area that can use personnel. After serving for a minimum of 2 years each participant would receive 2 years of educational benefits, healthcare and access to government backed housing loans without expiration.

During my time in the Army as a 62J20 General Construction Machine operator I was assigned to Company A 4th Engineer Battalion at Ft. Carson, Colorado and 47th Engineer Company at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska I observed Vietnam veterans being chastised and abused by their superiors and as such developed a keen sympathy for these soldiers. I couldn't believe these young men were treated so poorly by their own. A majority of my closest friends were Vietnam veterans and I vowed that I would provide assistance to them after leaving the Army. After receiving an engineering degree from Pennsylvania State University I was recruited to work for Kodak and a colleague who was a Vietnam veteran asked me to join Vietnam Veterans of America with him. When I told him I wasn't in Vietnam, he said all those who served during Vietnam were eligible to join.

I have been active in VVA for the past 39 years and have served in leadership positions at the Chapter, State Council and National levels. I have been the Treasurer of the New York State Council since 2005, was a Board member of the Veterans Outreach in Rochester, NY from 1999 to 2017 (one of the original Vietnam veteran self help agencies set up in 1973), Secretary for the construction phase of the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial from 1990 to

2000, and was a member of employee veteran organizations at both Kodak and Harris RF Communications. Over the years I have received various awards for my contributions to my fellow veterans, and while these awards are good, they're not what drives me to keep working on behalf of all men and women who have faithfully served our nation to receive the benefits they have earned to secure our nation.

Sincerely,
Nick DeLeo

From: Dan Fenley [REDACTED]
Sent on: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 7:40:55 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: "Were You Drafted"

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 8:23:00 PM

Yes I was; March 26, 1964. Eventually, I wound up in South VietNam. I believe that EVERYONE misses out when they do not serve in some manner either in the military or through public service.

My Serial # was [REDACTED]. I was REFRAD February, 1966.

Dan Fenley

12/31/19 [REDACTED]

From: Dave White [REDACTED]
Sent on: Saturday, December 7, 2019 1:08:14 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Compulsory National Service

Whatever is your recommendation for the military draft I don't think our still somewhat free country should have a forced universal national service.

Dave White

12/31/19

	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Allyn Lepaska [REDACTED] Sent on: Monday, December 9, 2019 4:00:47 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Comments</p> <p>After graduating from college and being employed in a professional job, I was drafted in 1967. I went willingly, served in Viet Nam as a combat medic and thought it was a good experience. I do acknowledge that I thought the war could have been fought differently but never failed to do my best. As a result of my service, I was able to go to law school under the GI bill and have had a successful career. However, now I have metastatic prostate cancer and am 100% disabled maybe because of agent orange.</p> <p>There were many that that finangled to avoid the draft or go to the reserves or national guard when the reserves or national guard were not called into combat. I think national service is a great idea but with today's youth we have no many that would not qualify for military service and could be problematic in performing public service. Part of the problem is that our country is so politically divided that if the program is under one political party members of the other political party would be obstructionists.</p> <p>I have always volunteered in a variety of groups and would favor all citizens be required to do some public service but the problem is in the details.</p> <p>Allyn Lepaska [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Army 1967-1969</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Daniel MacAlister [REDACTED] Sent on: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 4:01:25 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Selective Service/The Draft in the Vietnam Era</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed</p>

Completed on: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 8:28:00 PM

I received my Draft Notice in 1966 – ordered to report to AFEES Coral Gables, FL to take an induction physical. I was 21 years old, had just recently gotten married, moved to the Florida west coast and started a new job. There was no “marriage deferment” at that time – only college or children.

I did as I was ordered, reported, and received a “temporary deferment” due to a heart murmur. I was ordered to report to a local cardiologist for further tests, ultimately cleared and told to report immediately to be sworn in and report for active duty. I subsequently went to the local recruitment office to join the US Navy, where I was told that their “quota” was filled for the month. Fortunately, I spoke with a very helpful recruiter who had two new recruits that had not been drafted and he would see if one of them would wait a month and let me take their billet. One of them agreed, I took my oath the very same day, and was told to go home and wait for orders to report for training.

But now I had to quickly find a way to get my new wife settled somewhere by herself or with family for the duration of my service, or until I got my orders.

This was the point that the US Navy was especially helpful. I joined under a program called the “Navy Cache”, which allowed me 120 days, as a Navy Reservist, to get all of my affairs in order before reporting for active duty training at USNTC Great Lakes. My wife and I decided that she would stay with her sister in Ohio, at least while I was in training, and until I found out where I would be ultimately sent. The Navy even let me report from Ohio rather than Florida so that I could drive my wife to her sister’s home.

My experience is my reason for telling my story. The US Navy and the Navy Recruiter made my draft much, much easier and more palatable! Removing almost all the stress related to conscription. I’m sure others were afforded this convenience, but if there was a general rule that allowed a short delay, when needed, there may not be as much resistance.

I was raised to honor my country, my commitment and my duty, but I chose to do so as a Naval Petty Officer for 4 years rather than an Army Sergeant for 2. Some would tell me I was foolish to enlist for 4 years rather than allow myself to be drafted for 2. The Navy gave me training as a yeoman, a law clerk and a qualified court reporter. I did go to Vietnam, served aboard several aircraft carriers, and literally grew up while visiting ports of call all over the world! I also went back to college on the GI Bill, and even bought my first home with a VA mortgage.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, December 9, 2019 4:46:55 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: Elvin Martin [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to invitation to comment

12/31/19

Attachments: National Commision Letter for Public Comment.pdf (261.58 KB)

Dear Commissioners,

Please find attached our comments for the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service.

Mail letter to follow.

Sincerely,

Melvin Sauder, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

Courtesy Copies;

Elvin Martin, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

James Burkholder, Representative for Weaverland Old Order Mennonite Conference

From: Eric Matteson [REDACTED]

Sent on: Thursday, December 12, 2019 8:27:55 PM

To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>

Subject: Reducing number of students who get financial aid instead of reinstating military draft.

Follow up: Follow up

Follow up status: Completed

Completed on: Friday, December 13, 2019 1:44:00 PM

12/31/19

Dear Commission on Selective Service:

A return to a total military draft would be a step in the wrong direction. The U.S. already has totally mandatory jury duty in which poor quality uneducated drafted jurors provide poor quality verdicts. Trevon Martin was denied justice when 12 draftees who were unable to dodge jury duty upheld the right of a untrained security guard to execute Trevon Martin based on mere suspicion only without any probable cause.

12 drafted jurors also authorized the brutal execution of Kelly Thomas by the Fullerton Police department just for being poor and homeless without having committed any other crime.

The people in charge of the All Volunteer U.S. military said that in spite of its problems the all Volunteer U.S. military has better quality recruits than a total military draft would have provided.

Changing jury service to allow volunteers to choose a courthouse and a starting month but not a specific trial instead of continuing to require mandatory jury service will improve the accuracy of

jury verdicts and improve justice.

The Vietnam war was lost because poor quality draftees lost that war for us.

Currently the United States has a FRAUD BASED economic U.S. military draft in which public and private colleges exaggerate how much money graduates can earn and then trick young people into signing student loan documents in which student loans have to be repaid and then borrowers have to serve in the U.S. military for several terms of enlistment in order to repay thier expensive student loans.

The war in Afghanistan is a never ending stalemate in which soldiers are afraid that if they win that war that they might be discharged before they are finished repaying their student loans.

If you want to win wars including Afghanistan then UPGRADE the U.S. economic military draft by eliminating new student loans and the FRAUD that they create. Limit civilian student financial aid including Pell grants to very smart students who have fully fulfilled their High School

requirements including a second year of Algebra.

People should voluntarily enlist in the U.S. military FIRST

and if they still want to go to college after

completing at least 4 years of military service then they should

get a G.I. bill GRANT for college instead of a student loan.

All service should be voluntary including jury service and national

service and public service and military service.

If there are not enough volunteers in the U.S. military then upgrade

the Solomon amendment to shut down all forms of civilian student

financial aid until the U.S. military is filled up with enough volunteers.

The smartest students should be given priority for civilian

student financial aid instead of the poorest students and nobody

should be allowed to borrow money for college.

It is my opinion that if a national emergency or crazy politicians

cause the reinstatement of the U.S. military draft then the

SOLOMON AMENDMENT already provides selective service the

authority to use FAFSA lists to draft people either with or

without selective service registration in the following order:

1) Highest unrepaid student loan balance borrowers will be drafted

first and then the lowest unrepaid balance borrowers next.

2) past borrowers will be drafted even though they have repaid their student loans if they are needed.

3) In a very large need for draftees people who have recieved Pell Grants might eventually be drafted.

If congress wants to approve a draft the easiest way is to use

BUDGET RECONCILLIATION to activate the draft clause of the

already existing SOLOMON AMENDMENT which already at least implies

that anyone who applies for any form of student financial aid

potentially OWES up to two years of mandatory military service

in time of national emergency. Student financial aid is not really

free if there is a national emergency. Budget reconciliation

will fund the expansion of Selective Service to draft people

who are on the FAFSA list.

Only a simple majority vote of 51 votes in the U.S. Senate is

required to draft student financial aid recipients under the SOLOMON AMENDMENT.

Drafting anybody who has never received any form of student financial aid would require a full 60 vote supermajority in the U.S. Senate and would seem very unfair to a supermajority of voters during the next election.

If the U.S. military draft is reinstated then women will be sent to front line combat positions because women have recieved student finacial aid just like men.

If selective service registration continues then it must include women unless financial aid laws are changed to prevent women from receiving student financial aid of any kind either federal or state.

We have gone through 39 years with registration without a draft.

If you only register with selective service now you will probably not be drafted unless you apply for any form of student financial aid.

People of both sexes who are opposed to war in any form should not apply for any form of student financial aid. Refusing to fill out a FAFSA is a perfect way for any individual to dodge the draft!

The Selective Service System is entirely owned and controlled by the SOLOMON AMENDMENT.

Eric Matteson

████████████████████

Sharing the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy
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December 13, 2019

To the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service:
I am a proud two-time alum of AmeriCorps VISTA, as well as an alum of faith-based service year program Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers, and currently program director for an AmeriCorps VISTA grantee in Minnesota. I have supervised, managed and supported several hundreds of AmeriCorps VISTAs over the past 8 years in my current role.

I believe strongly in the power of service to transform individuals and communities, and am also acutely aware of significant challenges and barriers toward expanding national service to more people and more communities. Some of these barriers are structural/systemic, some are a marketing problem, and some are related to the complex and sometimes conflicting policies and regulations that govern the multiple national service programs. While I can speak most directly to the AmeriCorps VISTA branch of national service, I strongly believe continuing with a multitude of varied ways and opportunities to serve is a strength of national service – not a drawback.

I believe several improvements could be made to policies, regulations and systems to increase the effectiveness, awareness and accessibility of national service, so that:

- National service is more inclusive and accessible to more people from a wide range of identities

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and backgrounds;

- More service members can successfully complete a full term of service, with sufficient financial benefits and other supports; and
- Host site organizations and communities can more effectively utilize national service resources to “improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering” (CNCS Mission Statement).

CHALLENGES

In Minnesota, AmeriCorps VISTA grantees have collectively experienced increasing challenges over the last 10 years in recruiting and retaining VISTA members whose skills, experiences, passions, and life circumstances align with VISTA service. Positions that remain unfilled or that are left early before the service term is completed result in those host organizations and communities not being able to effectively increase their capacity to lift people out of poverty. VISTA resources are therefore not being used as effectively and efficiently as they could. This is not unique to Minnesota; many other states face similar challenges. The reasons for the increased challenges are varied – some related to environmental context (e.g., tight market), some related to lack of marketing and awareness of or understanding of opportunities, and some related to policies and regulations that create barriers to more individuals serving.

Evidence shows that bringing diverse voices and perspectives to bear on complex community issues like poverty increases the ability of a community to develop effective solutions. Our experience, however, has been that VISTA service is currently most accessible to young, single, recent college graduates of relative affluence who have no dependents and who can afford to take the financial risks involved. We find that VISTAs are at risk of dropping out of service or not signing up at all if they do not have a preexisting financial safety net. VISTAs are also less resilient in the face of service-site challenges when Minnesota Literacy Council • 700 Raymond Avenue, Suite 180 • St. Paul, MN 55114
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they are also experiencing financial distress. People of all ages and backgrounds should be able to serve in VISTA and take advantage of the opportunity to build their experience, skills and networks so that they can both make a real difference in communities during their service and find meaningful employment post- VISTA service.

Meanwhile, increasing the diversity of our VISTA member corps also requires changes in how we support, train and coach VISTAs and host sites so that VISTAs can more effectively fulfill their responsibilities and successfully complete a year of service.

We believe there are changes that could be made to the national program that would help us recruit a diverse corps and increase completion and retention rates. These changes would support our increasing

efforts to include people from low-income backgrounds in shaping the programs that serve their own communities, while simultaneously helping these individuals to gain experience, build their leadership skills, develop as professionals, and take advantage of the other benefits that come with VISTA service. This then creates a spillover positive effect for the projects and communities themselves. When we invest in VISTAs' personal and professional development, and when we provide sufficient supports, VISTAs are more likely to complete a full term of service or even go on to a second or more term of service – enabling them to have an even greater impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the years, we have seen CNCS enact several changes to make VISTA more inclusive and accessible – such as allowing outside employment for VISTAs (effective 2015) and increasing the childcare benefit for those eligible (2017). However, while some of the CNCS Transformation & Sustainability Plan elements bring welcome improvements to the federal agency, we are also concerned about the recent restructuring of CNCS into regional offices at the expense of losing at least 40% of its long-time workforce and at the expense of deeply embedded local relationships that are crucial to effective local, grassroots community development that is at the heart of the mission of national service.

Member benefits:

- Increase living allowance rates (at minimum, to make comparable with AmeriCorps State & National living allowance rates and to eliminate the disparities between how State & National versus VISTA members are compensated/supported for basic living expenses.)
- Provide a standardized housing allowance benefit to all eligible VISTAs rather than leaving it to individual grantees or host sites to provide housing assistance to whatever degree they are or are not able, and provide flexibility on how those housing allowance payments may be made (i.e., not just directly to landlords).

o NOTE: Housing has become more expensive locally and nationally. It is now much more difficult to access affordable, safe rental housing. Individual sites and sponsors that have the resources to provide housing assistance typically have higher recruitment and retention rates and higher rates of members serving multiple terms. Providing this housing assistance as a benefit to all eligible VISTAs would ensure that all VISTAs in need would have access to this.

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o We believe (and evidence indicates) that of all these recommendations, housing assistance – along with increased living allowance rates – could have the greatest positive impact on both recruitment and retention of members.

· Improve health care benefits, to at minimum make them ACA-compliant and to include more resources to address mental health crises.

· Provide emergency funds.

· Changes to the Education Award:

o Make it tax-free.

o Increase the amount along with the alternative cash stipend end of service benefit, and/or increase loan forgiveness for public service and/or matches provided by higher educational institutions.

§ NOTE: Student loans and the cost of higher education have soared over the last 20 years, but the amount of the Education Award has not kept pace. Similarly, taxing the Education Award when it is used puts a financial burden on VISTA members.

o Make it transferrable for any VISTA of any age to any family member, as an incentive to older adults and individuals who do not personally have need for the Education Award themselves but who have dependents or other family members who would greatly benefit.

§ NOTE: The Education Award in its current structure is only beneficial to people who have federal student loans or who are planning to go to college/graduate school in the near future. Transferability of the Education Award (only available currently to AmeriCorps State & National members over the age of 55 to a child or grandchild specifically) could help whole families by allowing VISTAs of any age to pass the benefit on to a child, grandchild, sibling, spouse, parent or other family members.

Training:

· Allow federal grant funds to be used for local training/professional development, include local sponsors in planning and delivery, and increase grant funds to support local training/professional development. Local programs and grantees are the experts in their local communities and in their issue areas/service areas. The one-size-fits-all style of training that is geared toward young, emerging professionals with little work experience fails to take into account individual learning styles and needs, local expertise, and the experience and knowledgebase that VISTAs bring with them to the service year, especially those that serve mid-career or in their retirement.

o NOTE: Professional development is one of the most valued benefits for individual VISTA members. Providing high quality training helps VISTA members be more effective during their service and helps VISTA members be better equipped for careers after VISTA service.

o Training also provides opportunities for VISTA members to feel connected to the VISTA program's goals and to other VISTA members. The sense of community and VISTA identity

that VISTAs gain through training with other VISTAs, along with the resource-sharing, support and personal connections that take place, help the VISTA members to be more effective and help to decrease attrition.

o We believe more input from local sponsors and sites could make CNCS-led orientations more successful, and providing more resources to sites and sponsors to provide their own in-service training – or at least allowing sponsors/sites the flexibility in how federal grant Minnesota Literacy Council • 700 Raymond Avenue, Suite 180 • St. Paul, MN 55114
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funds can be spent to include training and professional development expenses – would be extremely beneficial to all VISTAs and sites.

Terms of Service:

· Allow more flexible service terms for VISTAs, perhaps in alignment with the flexibility and menu of options for AmeriCorps State & National positions:

o Options for part-time service

o More flexible start dates

o More flexible leave time (e.g., shift to 20 personal days instead of separate 10 sick and 10 vacation, and increase emergency leave or family leave time for caregivers)

· Offer incentives to employers to employ national service alumni, and to institutions of higher education to award college credit for national service.

Other:

· Invest in a robust national marketing campaign to promote national service and the variety of ways and opportunities to serve.

· Simplify the member and host site/grantee application process.

o NOTE: The current application process for members is confusing both to applicants and grantees, and is not nimble enough to help grantees ensure member applicants are a good fit.

o The application process and reporting requirements for grantees is in many ways too complex and cumbersome for many smaller organizations – especially those that don't fit with an intermediary but instead apply directly through CNCS – that may have high needs for VISTA resources to build their capacity but do not have the staff capacity to manage the application and reporting requirements.

o We have heard that a new grant and member management system is in development as part of the CNCS Transformation & Sustainability Plan and are eager to test out the new system soon. However, we have been told several times over the last 5 years that a new

grant and member management system is in the works, and then the project failed and was abandoned and we are left with the existing grant/member management system.

- Create a national advisory group or association for VISTA grantees, to serve as a vehicle for ongoing conversations between local grantees/sites/members and regional/national CNCS leadership; to support, promote and advise VISTA (comparable to the Senior Corps associations and the association of state service commissions for AmeriCorps State & National branches of national service); and to ensure that members and sites/grantees of all branches of national service have equal representative voices to the national programs and federal agency.

- Increase funding to VISTA: while Senior Corps and State & National have seen modest funding increases in recent federal budget years, VISTA has remained level-funded for several years, despite increased costs to maintain – let alone expand – programming and opportunities.

Where applicable, I would heartily recommend similar changes for other streams of service as well, especially toward bringing the various branches of national service into greater alignment with one another and promoting all national service opportunities.

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IN CONCLUSION

Many would argue that the declining trends we see in VISTA recruitment connect to improvements in our national economy—however, a closer look at those numbers will reveal that there continues to be a large segment of the population that does not benefit from this improved economy (hence the need for VISTA in the first place). The VISTA program could serve both the purpose of building capacity for organizations who seek to improve educational outcomes, employment outcomes, etc., and to also be a vehicle in and of itself to alleviate unemployment for the structurally under- and un-employed. I believe these recommendations can help make VISTA more accessible, more meaningfully inclusive, more effective in lifting individuals and communities out of poverty, and ultimately a resource for all Americans.

I respectfully submit my recommendations above in response to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Meghan Paul-Cook

National Service Director

Minnesota Literacy Council

AmeriCorps VISTA Alum 2004-2006

From: qqqq qqqq [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, December 15, 2019 10:33:40 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: why I oppose military service

As Long as the US Military opposes freedom of religion in the military and promotes immorality I will never join and urges others also not to.

Forcing religious people to bunk with homosexuals, or be in mixed mens/womens units is only going to help the enemies of America.

God will only bless America if we don't spit in his face.

12/31/19

Yonatan Teleky

From: Gerri Dayharsh [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, December 15, 2019 8:43:37 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: Arthur Kegerreis [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Shannon Frediani [REDACTED]; Karen Warren [REDACTED]; noreen winkler [REDACTED]
Subject: Quaker Response to The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service
Attachments: selective service minute 8Dec19.docx (78.18 KB)

To The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service:

The Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) approved the following minute on December 8, 2019:

Minute #3, 12/08/2019:

12/31/19

Military conscription is inconsistent with the traditional Friends peace testimony. Every person is a child of God, and we recognize God's light even in our

adversaries. War violates the teachings of Jesus and other prophets. Only nonviolent means solve conflicts between people and nations.

Because of these deeply held beliefs, Santa Cruz Friends Meeting opposes the extension of military conscription and urges the abolition of the Selective Service System.

We urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to recommend:

- 1) End draft registration for everyone and not to extend it to women.
- 2) Eliminate all criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register and overturn those punishments for those currently living under these penalties.
- 3) Oppose compulsory national service, whether civilian or military, as conscription conflicts with the principles of a democratic and free society.

Contact information:

Gerri Dayharsh, co-clerk: [REDACTED]

Noreen Winkler, co-clerk: [REDACTED]

Karen Warren, co-clerk: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent on: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 4:07:52 PM

To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>

CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: Commission on Military, Nat'l, and Public Service

Considerations for Your Commission:

In my opinion, the military Draft or a Draft contingency is still a necessary component of U.S. Nat'l Security, as it would instill a patriotism or "Buy In" mindset for our youth. which does not exist today.

12/31/19

	<p>If a Draft system is required, modifications would need to be made to the Selective Service /Draft System. The system of the 1960's and 1970's (including the Lottery System) was not fair. However, I don't believe our current or any future Congress is capable of designing a FAIR draft system, as they would allow to many loopholes.</p> <p>Yes, I was drafted into the Army and served in Vietnam in 1966/1967. There was a good amount of Patriotism early in that war, which may never be attainable again due to the un-fair Draft system of the 60's and 70's.</p> <p>I think our nation needs to stay with an all volunteer military in order to obtain highly trained personnel that can conduct any future electronic type of war. Troops on the ground should be held to a minimum. They need to be paid well with good education and a G.I.Bill program to facilitate recruitment. It would be expensive but necessary.</p> <p>A Nat'l Public Service program should be instituted, and it should be advertised as an opportunity for our youth to serve and also obtain marketable skills, and education. The education could be part of the program training, or offered similar to the G.I. Bill program. School Counselors and Teaches should be part of designing this program, as they will be the one's marketing it.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. If your Commission wants any further thoughts or details from me, let me know.</p> <p>Harold J. Hines ██████████</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: ██████████ Sent on: Thursday, December 19, 2019 7:36:54 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: I was drafted in September, 1965</p> <p>I just read that you are soliciting draftees. You may contact me at this email address.</p> <p>Michael J. Collier Last four of Service Number: ██████████</p> <p>Sent from my LG G5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone</p>
12/31/19	<p>National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box #63 Arlington, Virginia 22202</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p>

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments to the Commission as it considers recommendations for promoting service in the United States. At FoodCorps, a national service nonprofit organization, our mission is to connect kids to healthy food in schools. We are in our ninth year of programming, placing trained and passionate AmeriCorps service members in a diverse range of communities in 18 states across the country. We urge the Commission to include strong recommendations to increase national service stipends to ensure service member compensation is just and equitable.

From Hawaii to Maine and New York City to Montana, committed FoodCorps AmeriCorps service members are truly the foundation of our work and yet the compensation they receive does not reflect the value they bring to their communities, let alone provide even a living wage. While FoodCorps has been working within the existing AmeriCorps compensation structure to increase stipends for our service members and implement other practices to help with this issue, we also strongly believe that AmeriCorps needs to change its rules and operations in order to ensure service members are compensated equitably and justly.

We were pleased to see that the Staff Memorandum on National Service included a discussion of this issue of compensation. We support the suggested policies, including the elimination of the maximum restrictions on all CNCS living allowances and stipends and the provision of an annual cost-of-living adjustment to allowances and stipends. We also encourage the Commission to include a recommendation that not only eliminates the maximum level of compensation, but also establishes a minimum level of compensation. The Commission could consider various means of calculating such a minimum, including variations based on geography or local labor market conditions.

At FoodCorps, as with many other national service organizations, we prioritize our programming in communities that have been historically underserved. And, we also recognize the value and strategic imperative to recruit service members from the communities we serve. Yet, the current level of compensation poses a real challenge in achieving this goal. National service should not only be accessible to those who have additional financial support nor be a commitment to living in poverty. Increasing service member pay will help organizations like FoodCorps recruit a service member cohort that reflects the communities we serve and that can bring an authentic, shared connection to their work, while also compensating these individuals accordingly.

Without an increase in service member compensation, we will continue many troubling trends we are currently witnessing with service members not reflecting their communities, drawing upon savings or going into debt, and facing the daily stress caused from struggling to make ends meet.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

	<p>Zeke Smith VP of Programs</p>
<p>12/31/19</p>	<p>PO Box 1115 Alexandria, VA 22313 www.withhonor.org 877-782-6691 December 20, 2019 National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive Suite 1000, Box #63 Arlington, VA 22202 Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>With Honor Action promotes and advances principled veteran leadership in Congress in order to reduce polarization. It's no secret that debilitating partisanship in DC is near a record high, while veteran representation in Congress is near a historic low at 18%. Now more than ever, a new generation of principled leaders are needed to reverse the dysfunction and polarization.</p> <p>At a time of increased partisanship, we believe an emphasis on national service is important to the future success of our country. National service programs have helped shape some of our great public and private leaders, increased participants' sense of civic duty, and generated lifelong commitments to community engagement. Our country is strengthened when Americans take significant time to serve our country in uniform or through national and public service opportunities.</p> <p>We commend the significant time, effort, and research you have put into the Commission's mission and encourage you to ensure your recommendations have legislative pathways to becoming law. Numerous bills over the past two congressional sessions have provisions related to the topic of civilian national service. Few have progressed beyond introduction. More than anything, we hope the Commission's pending report is designed to help Members of Congress turn the recommendations into legislation, and legislation into action.</p> <p>We also write to share some findings from our recent research on American attitudes surrounding national service. In November of 2019, With Honor Action conducted polling to better understand how Americans in battleground congressional districts feel about national service. Of note, we share the following takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - America is headed on the wrong track. By nearly two-to-one, Americans say the country is on the wrong track instead of going in the right direction. - National service opportunities could heal political divisions. 92% of Americans say it is important to heal the deep political divisions in the country, and 58% say having a bigger national service program would help to heal those divisions. - National service increases civic engagement. Voters who have either participated, or know someone who has, in military or civilian national service are more engaged in civic activity than those who do not have that connection. - Americans have areas they want national service to focus on. The top five came in at a combined 34% to 41%, including disaster recovery, senior citizens, the homeless, veterans' issues, and hunger. - Americans strongly oppose mandatory service. Fully 61% of Americans oppose a mandatory national service system. <p>While we are not subject matter experts in the selective service system, we do support expanded pathways to national service and strongly encourage a broad, reinvigorated civic education system that builds a stronger understanding of our government process and prepares all students for citizenship as</p>

informed, engaged and responsible members of our society.
Additionally, we hope the Commission has taken a deep look into the effectiveness of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). While we have a history of supporting funding for CNCS, we are concerned by how few Americans know the organization and how few know how to find CNCS-funded opportunities. With Honor Action strongly encourages a CNCS rebranding effort and supports the concept of an accessible national database of service opportunities.
With approximately \$1 billion in taxpayer funds flowing through CNCS, the organization also needs improved organization-wide metrics that are publicly available to measure return on investment. Rigorous measurement surrounding return on investment can help build the case for robust funding for national service programs at a time when Congress and the American people are conscious of costs.
We are grateful for your dedication and service to our country. We hope you bring an entrepreneurial spirit to your approach in finding ways for service to help the American people.
Please consider us a resource in turning your recommendations to action.
Respectfully,
Rye Barcott
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
With Honor Action

From: dennis Marble [REDACTED]
Sent on: Saturday, December 21, 2019 2:51:38 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Share Your Thoughts - Mandatory Military Service

In my opinion, mandatory service for all genders should be required as it is in many other countries. Having spent a great deal of time in foreign countries I find the benefits of mandatory service are numerous and obvious. It seems grossly unfair that only 1% of citizens in the U.S. now serve their country.

My tenure in the military changed me from a misdirected, rebellious, troubled teen into a confident, self directed, goal oriented and productive individual who respects others. And I'm not alone.

We are experiencing a significant deterioration of good parenting and positive direction for many of our young citizens. The result is crime, drug addiction and lack of respect for others and their country. Mandatory military service would provide a much needed avenue for positive growth, value development and self respect. A huge benefit for the participants and our country.

I would allow those who qualify and desire to complete college or trade school prior to serving as it will increase the overall education value of our military upon entry. Required courses would include; second language (with an emphasis on critical languages), U.S. History, Political Science, The Constitution and World Geography. Also mandatory would be education on Nutrition and structured Physical Training. P.E. returns. Some form of monetary assistance

12/31/19

should be provided. It might be jobs, tax free donations, or a form of grant to help. But, I'm NOT for free anything. I like the earn and learn program. Have pride in working to pay your share. There is a way.

The military will provide the required listed courses for those not attending college or trade school.

Inherent Value? College attendance with the requirements listed, along with their major college course requirements, will provide valuable benefits to the military, the individual and the country. Who could argue differently? Trade school would provide similar benefits of value more concentrated on "hands on" skills. Then add the education, discipline, responsibility and leadership well learned in the military. Employers would place a very high value on those who have served under these requirements and rightfully so. Who could argue differently? And what a training ground for a new breed of politician so sorely needed.

Who would NOT want to participate and earn the respect as well as financial rewards? Who? Market the features and benefits properly and they will line up to join.

Is it feasible? Really? If other countries can do it so can we. Let's see government work for a change!!!

So.....what are we waiting for? You are tasked with a significant opportunity with the potential to improve the lives of our citizens and our National Security. World Class Potential I say. Waste not as this could mean the difference for our Republic and the world. So, if you are a leader then let's see some action!

Watching and awaiting your decisions.

Proud to have served as a U.S Army Ranger

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, December 19, 2019 7:36:54 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: I was drafted in September, 1965

I just read that you are soliciting draftees. You may contact me at this email address.

Michael J. Collier
Last four of Service Number: [REDACTED]

12/31/19

Sent from my LG G5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

12/31/19	<p>From: Frank Kelley [REDACTED] Sent on: Thursday, December 19, 2019 6:20:58 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Military Service</p> <p>This must be done. If you are not a citizen and want to become one you must serve 2 years in the military from age of 18 to 30. Every one that is a United States citizen should serve 2 years in military service. Regardless of religion, status color, creed, sex. There is a price for freedom and a privilege to be a citizen of the United States.</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Kumar Chandran [REDACTED] Sent on: Friday, December 20, 2019 3:09:05 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Public Comment from FoodCorps Attachments: FoodCorps - Public Comment - Natl Commission on Military Public and National Service.pdf (1.06 MB)</p> <p>Dear Commission,</p> <p>Please find our comment in the attached PDF. Thank you for your work.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Kumar</p> <p>Kumar Chandran FoodCorps Policy Director — FoodCorps.org [REDACTED]</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Marion Bk [REDACTED] Sent on: Friday, December 20, 2019 4:51:13 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: National Service Requirement for all Americans</p>

As a female, retired military officer, I believe all Americans under the age of 25 should be required to meet a National Service Requirement of a minimum of 90 days. The National Service Requirement could be met via Military or Civil government service or by approved Federally recognized nonprofit community services for the health and well being of indigent, elderly or disabled community members. Mandatory military service should be reserved for national security emergencies that directly affect the citizens and territorial resources of the United States of America. Voluntary national service whether for military or civilian purposes should be encouraged by appealing to civic responsibility and providing appropriate benefits for providing national aid and assistance.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Gordon Slaten [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, December 31, 2018 2:32:14 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Military Service

Sir,

Saw your request for information in the VFW Magazine. I wanted to give you my opinion.

First, I was drafted in 1970 and spent over 10 years in the US Army. I feel that the youth of today are not interested in service to their country. The school system don't impress the value of service and country to the youth of today. I am concerned that we have a loss of a generation of young people. I believe that reinstating the draft would be a good idea. When I was in The Army, I found it to be very good as we got to meet others with interesting views and ideas. I was in service for several years after the draft was stopped. The first thing that I ran into was the lower quality of new personnel. I am sure that over the years the quality has improved. But, the interaction with so many people from many different places add to my experience while in service. My time in service did add to my appreciation of this country and service I was doing. I would wish that experience on others.

12/31/19

Thank You

Gordon Slaten

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: dennis pfaff [REDACTED]
Sent on: Friday, December 20, 2019 1:20:32 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: universal draft recommendation

Dear Sirs:

I was drafted on 19 July 1967 into the US Army at the age of 25 and proudly served in Vietnam as an Infantryman. I feel I benefited from being drafted and appreciate my country more since being drafted. For this reason I have been a supporter of a universal draft since my honorable discharge on 17 July 1969. I think all persons should be drafted at age 18 years old or upon graduation from high school whichever comes later.

I do not believe that all persons should be drafted for military service but that all persons can provide a service to their country. We need workers of all capabilities in the service of our country. Our national parks, national forests, and national highways all need work that can be performed by our young people. Persons that desire to become doctors can gain a basic knowledge of emergency medicine by training in as a medic at the military training facilities.

There are few that are not able to provide a service to our country while increasing their feelings of self worth. Even those with bone spurs, other physical and mental disabilities, and religious beliefs regarding taking another's life can provide a service to our country.

It would also give all the experience of making a sacrifice prior to entering politics which I feel is very much missing today.

Thank you for allowing me to provide input into our national draft decisions.

12/31/19

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Pfaff
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

If you love your freedom, Thank a Vet

From: Ed Hinch [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, December 19, 2019 6:11:02 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: One year of Mandatory service

One year of military service is too short a time to provide either the civilian or military any benefit. Not enough training can be effectively accomplished. The minimum time to accomplish most training is 18 months. However, advanced training requires more 2 years should not be considered excessive. This time frame does not include the time required in basic training (boot camp).

If 20 people, who have not worked together previously, try to accomplish a single task that requires them to work in sync it will take a minimum of 20 minutes for them to acknowledge and begin work if one of the people is a strong leader. If there is more than one strong leader it takes additional time. Heaven help them if none have strong leadership skills.

Please keep in mind this is the time required to start a task not accomplish it. This is not acceptable in any work any work environment. In a military environment it could be fatal. Boot camp is meant to overcome these issues. In addition, the individuals learn how to fire a weapon, clean and care for their weapon, so that it can be used again, as well as a myriad of other skills unique to military in a battle field environment.

If you think that military training after Boot camp is excessively long reconsider. Military schools, training, is not well rounded like civilian colleges and universities. It is focused. Generally it is eight hours of in-class, five days a week instruction focused on the subject. After hours study groups are encouraged and in most cases required to satisfactorily meet course requirements. All math, science and English for example is subject related. An example, is my brother who in the navy went to the "nuc" school. Industry was trying to recruit him and others in his class before he even finished and they were even willing to let him finish his commitment to the service. This is not unique, in the Air Force the same thing happened with our aircraft maintenance folks, and some other career fields.

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Do I believe a mandatory commitment to serve should be required by all citizens? YES most definitely, as long as they are psychological sound/fit. Time

committed should be a minimum of 2 years. This will provide the required basic training (boot camp), and a basic training in some skill and a bit of practical application. If however, the person wants to learn an advanced skill, then they should be required to recommit to the training time plus 6 months. This will allow them to learn that skill and the practical aspect of putting it to work.

Sincerely,

MS ed. Earl D. Hinchey, Ret, Msg. USAF

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

<https://resisters.info>

poster by Fred Moore for the
National Resistance Committee

Additional public comments and legislative recommendations to the
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (NCMNPS)
23 December 2019

Members of the Commission:

I urge the Commission to include H.R. 5492, in its entirety, in the legislation you recommend in your Final Report. H.R. 5492, the text of which is attached, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on 19 December 2019 by Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rodney Davis (R-IL). This bipartisan bill would accomplish exactly what I and other anti-draft and anti-war organizations and activists have recommended to the Commission.

In my testimony at your formal hearing on 25 April 2019,² and in a conference call between members of the Commission and anti-draft and anti-war activists on 13 November 2019,³ I asked the Commission to recommend that the requirement for young men to register with the Selective Service System be repealed; that all Federal sanctions for nonregistration be repealed; and that all state sanctions for nonregistration be preempted by Federal statute.

These same legislative recommendations were also made by other organizations that participated in the conference call with the Commission on 13 November 2019, and by other organizations and activists who have submitted written comments to the Commission.

1. See bill info at <<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5492>>. Because the text of H.R. 5492 is not yet available at Congress.gov, and may not be posted there until after the deadline for submission of public comments to

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the Commission on 31 December 2019, I have attached a copy of the bill as part of this submission to the Commission.

2. See written testimony at <https://inspire2serve.gov/_api/files/225>.

3. See written statement at <https://inspire2serve.gov/_api/files/381>.

Additional comments to the NCMNPS of Edward Hasbrouck, <<https://resisters.info>>

23 December 2019, page 1 of 5

H.R. 5492 provides a model for legislation to implement these recommendations.

While there has not been time for most organizations to consider formal endorsements of H.R. 5492 in the brief time between the introduction of this bill and the deadline established by the Commission for public comments, I believe that H.R. 5492 accurately reflects the consensus of recommendations made to the Commission by anti-draft and anti-war activists and organizations and by the tens of thousands of signatories of petitions submitted to the Commission asking that draft registration be ended entirely.⁴

H.R. 5492 is the first, and to date the only,⁵ legislative proposal introduced in Congress or submitted to the Commission that includes Federal preemption of state sanctions for failure or refusal to register with the Selective Service System as required by Federal law, regulations, and Presidential proclamations.

As I discussed in my earlier written statement⁶ to the Commission and during our conference call on 13 November 2019, this Federal preemption provision is essential to provide closure to this issue and to avoid a lifetime of continuing and inconsistent state sanctions against nonregistrants, costly and distracting state-by-state litigation with respect to their continued validity, and continuing state and Federal legislative debate about them.

I expect that the Commission may recommend a package of legislation including measures to address other issues, such as to provide additional funding for voluntary service programs. However, I urge you to incorporate the provisions of H.R. 5492, in their entirety, in your Final Report as your recommendations with respect to the Selective Service System.

Peace,

Edward Hasbrouck

Attachment: Text of H.R. 5492 as introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives

4. See petition with 25,497 signatures, “Don’t Force Women to Register for the Draft, Dump the Draft Entirely”, which I delivered to Commission Chair Heck and Commission staff at the Commission’s public event at California State University, Los Angeles, 20 September 2018; available at <<https://hasbrouck.org/draft/petition-signed-all.pdf>> but not yet included in the public comments posted on the Commission Web site or released in response to my FOIA requests.

5. To the (incomplete) extent that, months after the deadlines for responses to Freedom Of Information Act requests, the recommendations received by the Commission have been posted by the Commission or disclosed in response to FOIA

2 Notwithstanding the proviso in section 10(a)(4) of the
3 Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3809(a)(4)), the
4 Office of Selective Service Records shall not be reestab5
lished upon the repeal of the Act. Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the assets,
7 contracts, property, and records held by the Selective
8 Service System, and the unexpended balances of any ap9
propriations available to the Selective Service System,
10 shall be transferred to the Administrator of General Serv11
ices upon the repeal of the Act. The Director of the Office
12 of Personnel Management shall assist officers and employ13
ees of the Selective Service System to transfer to other
14 positions in the executive branch.

15 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING SANCTIONS.—

16 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
17 a person may not be denied a right, privilege, ben18
efit, or employment position under Federal law on
19 the grounds that the person failed to present himself
20 for and submit to registration under section 3 of the
21 Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3802), be22
fore the repeal of that Act by subsection (a).

23 (2) A State, political subdivision of a State, or
24 political authority of two or more States may not
25 enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision

VerDate Mar 15 2010 15:01 Dec 16, 2019 Jkt 000000 PO 00000 Frm 00002 Fmt 6652 Sfmt 6201

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December 16, 2019 (3:01 p.m.)

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3

1 having the force and effect of law to penalize or
2 deny any privilege or benefit to a person who failed
3 to present himself for and submit to registration
4 under section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act

5 (50 U.S.C. 3802), before the repeal of that Act by
6 subsection (a). In this section, "State" means a
7 State, the District of Columbia, and a territory or
8 possession of the United States.
9 (3) Failing to present oneself for and submit to
10 registration under section 3 of the Military Selective
11 Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3802), before the repeal of
12 that Act by subsection (a), shall not be reason for
13 any entity of the U.S. government to determine that
14 a person lacks good moral character or is unsuited
15 for any privilege or benefit.
16 (d) CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.—Nothing con17
tained in this Act shall be construed to undermine or di18
minish the rights of conscientious objectors under laws

From: Paul W. Lovinger [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, December 23, 2019 9:06:28 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Selective Service recommendation

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 10:59:00 PM

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

info@inspire2serve.gov

Sirs/Mesdames:

This is my response to your request for comments regarding your

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pending recommendation to Congress:

The draft, or conscription, violates the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude.

Conscription is involuntary. Conscription is servitude. For many young men, it has been worse than slavery, taking away not only their freedom but also their lives. Now young women too?

Moreover, by providing an endless supply of bodies, conscription encourages lawless leaders to wage undeclared, unnecessary wars abroad.

Take the Korean and Vietnam wars, which together killed some 100,000 Americans along with several million Asians.

Please recommend passage of the bipartisan congressional bill H.R. 5492 by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) et al. to repeal the Selective Service Act, thereby eliminating the Selective Service System.

Yours very truly,

Paul W L

From: Brent Babcock [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 24, 2019 4:38:49 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draft comments

I enrolled in community college the following Fall after graduation from high school in June, 1964. Between working at a car repair shop 40 hours a week, supporting myself and attempting to accomplish a mechanical engineering course of study, the studies suffered. I was floundering and as such, resulted in Academic Probation status. A friend was home on leave from the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. We were feeling sorry for ourselves and wandered aimlessly in the Mojave Desert back trails, sober, morose and my buddy was driving too fast. After the car rolled three times and we were luckily ejected, the car caught fire and we were pretty banged up. A good samaritan took me to a hospital to be X-rayed, stitched up, splinted and bandaged and my buddy was delivered to Camp Pendleton where he checked in to the medics for similar treatment. I dropped from college in the spring semester, 1965. After returning to work and experiencing eight months of serious soul searching, I was ordered for a draft physical in August 1965 in Los Angeles at the Induction Center. I re-enrolled in college for the Fall 1965 semester. Just after midterm exams, I received my Draft Reclassification: 1A. I gathered my midterm exam grades, letters from instructors and went to the Local 85 Draft Board in North Hollywood. I was interviewed by a WWII nurse, a WWI Vet (who kept falling asleep) and a WWII vet with a 1000 yard stare. The Nurse (Chairperson) listened to my plea for Student Deferment status. Her statement was “you don’t appear to be a serious student. We will let you know your status within a month.” Within two weeks I received my 1A status decision. I wrote a letter in response saying “just draft me and get it over.” They did.

I received my Induction letter from President Lyndon B. Johnson towards the end of October with orders to appear at the Induction Center in Los Angeles, 23 Nov 1965. One step forward, an Oath, a trip to Ft Polk, LA for Basic, an assignment to Ft. Sill, OK and by December 1966, arrived in Saigon, Vietnam and subsequently assigned to the 1st Inf Div in Phuoc Vinh. I made E5 rank in 15 months, which means I didn’t screwup too much.

While having poor experiences with the VA until 2013, I believe that it is essential to have military experience in order to understand what “service to country” really means. Yes, Vietnam was a catastrophe for our nation, individually a nightmare and left me with continued nightmares. My career was adversely affected and my personal relationships suffered. I eventually married and almost 47 years later we are still together and ok. It was not without challenges.

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In recent years I have discovered that I am the direct descendant of Mayflower passengers (White), Jamestown settlers (Claiborne), Early leadership (Warner, Reade and Windebank,) many Revolutionary War Veterans, and Civil War Veterans (North and South.) One may say that I have a genetic connection to this nation.

If I had not been drafted, I would have volunteered for the Air Force or Navy after obtaining more education. I grew up in a community of defense related businesses and where our first astronauts trained. I was not adverse to the idea of national service. It was expected. As fate happened, I survived the Vietnam experience and was lucky enough to have the GI Bill education benefits to continue my education until I finished college in 1971.

As a result of being drafted, serving in a very unpopular war and trying to integrate back into a hostile society, I learned about keeping my head down to avoid confrontation. Vietnam veterans were starting to be able to lift their heads after the Gulf War and our neighbors started saying “welcome home.” About time, I thought. I still am suspicious about those words. I suspect that many are mouthing what their employers told them to say. Sorry, it still rings hollow.

I am 100% behind a national service program for all 18 year olds or high school graduates. All people can do something for our nation. The Military, CCC-like program from the '30's, Peace Corps, etc. Minimum wage, housing, discipline, training, purpose, allegiance to national goals and fellowship with a countryman. Unity as a Nation: sans political, ethnicity, religious adherences. Everyone can do something, regardless of their physical limitations or financial station. The limits to service are endless. And there is so much to be done.

We have so few people carrying the burden of national service, consequently most don't have any concept of the sacrifices made by those who do serve. We as a nation must accept this challenge if we are to remain a nation, imperfect as it may be.

A successful National Service Program must not exclude any person of any economic strata, sexual orientation, political connectivity, or those who would seek exemptions for nefarious physical or farcical mental reasons. Proof of having served in one or more of the National Service Programs would be a fundamental mandatory requirement for seeking public office. One cannot lead a people when that office seeker does not understand or emphasize through experience. Wisdom is not inherited, it is won through experience.

Brent Babcock
Myrtle Creek, Oregon

From: WES HIRAOKA [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 24, 2019 3:21:11 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draft

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 11:02:00 PM

I think it is imperative to have a draft for national security. There have been several generations that have not been exposed to the draft. Therefore, it is unknown how the public will react if there is a sudden activation from the military for a crisis. In the past, the draft was mandatory and every young person was aware that they could be called up to serve even during peacetime. Today, it is unknown how the population will respond to a national emergency unless the draft is slowly weaned into society and it becomes part of the lifestyle. Nevertheless, realistically, it will probably take (at least) one generation before the public becomes acclimated to a military draft. It is unfortunate that the draft was terminated because of political reasons.

I can only express the need to reinstate the draft, but I do not have the expertise to determine the dynamics or modifications of the plan. The draft should be part of life as long as it does not exploited as it did in the Vietnam War.

I think that Congress would function better if the future politicians had the opportunity to serve in the military as it was in the past. The draft would enable a cross section of the population to serve. The current all volunteer military serves its purpose well up to this point, but it is made up of a niche with similar bents or interests. Conscription would provide a cross section of the population to function together regardless of who one is or where one comes from. It will be an organization, like in the past, that consists of people from all walks of life (the educated, the blue collars, and the labors) working together in service to the Country. Essentially they may live in different worlds but they all have one thing in common; military service.

I was drafted in January 1967, and became an infantryman. During training the humiliation was humbling, but these encounters made me aware that the world does not revolve around me ...

12/31/19 Thank you for this opportunity.

From: Griffin, Daniel [REDACTED]
Sent on: Thursday, December 26, 2019 12:33:18 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draft

12/31/19

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 11:02:00 PM

I was drafted on September 11, 1967; our military is too small, men and woman are not enlisting like they were after 911. I am a veterans Service Officer and one of my clients served 11 tours in Afganistan and Iraq, they are using the same people over and over, they are burnt out! You must bring back the Draft.

From: Bradford Reed [REDACTED]
Sent on: Friday, December 27, 2019 8:04:50 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Conscription Comments

Dear National Commission on Military, National and Public Service:

I am responding to your survey from the questionnaire in this months VVA magazine. I am a 70 year old AF veteran of the Vietnam War. I enlisted after high school in 1967 and served during the Tet Offensive.

My thoughts are similar to those of some friends, military and non-military alike. Mandatory (for males, voluntarily for females) national service for a minimum of 2 years needs to be implemented not before 19 years and must be completed concurrently by age 23. Conscriptees would have the option of military related service OR civilian duty. Civilian duty would cover many of the activities the WPA provided in the 30's. The one area that would be added is field work dealing with air, land and water pollution. Others would be park service, medical assistance, infrastructure assistance etc.

A handful of other nations as you are aware, already do this. Now, more than ever young people are in need of 'structure' and in general, a 'reality check' before going out into the world.

While non-conservatives will claim this is some sort of 'fascism' it is a lot more constructive than spending 4 years (or less) as a liberal arts student being indoctrinated rather than educated, leaving thousands of dollars in student debt as a legacy for tax payers to deal with.

As a side benefit, I am certain this would automatically reduce crime and homelessness everywhere.

Sincerely,

12/31/19

	<p>Bradford Reed Noblesville, In</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Donald Haider [REDACTED] Sent on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 7:36:05 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: National Service: Public Comment</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 11:05:00 PM</p> <p>I am responding to an invitation to comment on proposals before the National Commission. You have received countless ideas on how best we might as a country come together through shared experiences and ideals. I truly hope that you give serious consideration to the SOS America Program <www.sosamerica.org> that provides a compelling rationale and structure to promote national service over self through a cost-effective, yet flexible program. I am a great supporter of SOS America and hope that you give this proposal the attention that it deserves in your final report. Don Haider, Emeritus Professor of Strategy, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: DEAN HESS [REDACTED] Sent on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 4:01:43 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: SOS America National Service</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Saturday, December 28, 2019 11:05:00 PM</p> <p>A military option in addition to the All volunteer force can add to your commission's report. Our country needs this to meet current needs to promote a patriotic spirit in our tribal society of today. The military can add this to their current mission with minimal impact and the use of retired veterans offers a cost effective way to strengthen our nations unforeseen emergencies and train our youth.</p>

There is strong support for the concept.

Others can join in volunteering and benefit.

Please include in your commissions report.

Dean hess

Retired military living in

Virginia

iPhone

From: Dick Watermolen [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 3:45:21 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: John Borling [REDACTED]
Subject: SOS America

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:25:00 PM

National Commission on Service:

12/31/19

This is a note of support of SOS America and its efforts to prepare today's youth for leadership roles in this great country of ours. As you are aware, only a small percentage of today's youth qualify for military service in our all-volunteer military, thus making such a program as SOS America an absolute necessity to prepare the future leaders of America.

During these confusing times in our nation, the military is the most trusted institution in our country, thus the need to ensure that we prepare them for the leadership roles that will ensure that America continues to be the world's leader. There is a national benefit for the military and the nation in that a common and shared military experience leads to mutual understanding and respect not only in this nation, but worldwide. SOS America presents these essentials.

Please include SOS America in your report March 2020 to Congress and President Trump. Thank you for your consideration and may God Bless America.

All the best,

Dick Watermolen

Vietnam2Now

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Daniel OKeefe [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:06:37 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Comments on Goals of the Commission

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:24:00 PM

12/31/19

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the efforts of the National Commission's efforts. My response is arranged in the manner of the "Share Your Thoughts" email, that is. each of the seven questions are answered below.

1. I feel service is important whether it is public or military, and that it should be asked and even required from each American. Service reminds everyone of our need to be reminded of our civic obligations. At the same time, there would have to be a process for those who may feel to religious reasons to not engage in national service.
2. To encourage participation, there has to be a effort to publicize. Also, any required service would have to be meaningful for each adult, not simply a task or obligation to bear.
3. Barriers would be clarity as to what each person's obligations, the availability of options for those with religious issues, and a definitely meaningful experience in the service work.
4. My answer is the same as in my responses in numbers 2 and 3.
5. A military draft needs to be brought back. It would ironically protect our democracy from an isolated military culture. Participation in a draft would help inoculate like a vaccine our citizens from military domination.
6. Bring the selective service admin. back with updates in technology and clarity as to options.
- 7,. I think mandatory service is necessary and valuable. Exceptions need to be included in the process.

Thank you,

Daniel O'Keefe
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, December 29, 2019 8:22:31 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>

12/31/19

Subject: Draft Status

Follow up: Follow up

Follow up status: Completed

Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:31:00 PM

I am from a military family so serving was not in question. I finished 3 years of college and found out about the Peace Corps and became volunteer in training in 1966 and into India in 1967. Since my draft board was near UCLA apparently they did not have enough men to be drafted so I was drafted from the Peace Corps in late 1967. I was against the Vietnam war and therefore signed up to be a medic thus having to serve 3 years instead of 2 due to the draft. I trained for about 18 months in the US and "semi-volunteered" to go to Vietnam as a medic. I say "semi" since we all knew if we had not been there we would be sent there. I listed it as my number 1 choice for foreign country assignment. I was sent there in August of 1969 and served in the 1st Inf. Div for about 5 months. They sent the 1st home but since I did not have enough time there I was sent to the 25th. I finished a year and found out that if I extended by 6 months I could get out of the Army 6 months early so I did that and was with the 44th Medical Batalion. I got home in California in January of 1971 and had two more years of college so that spring I went to Santa Monica Hospital ER and became an orderly to earn money to go back to college. Just when I was hired a voice came from the next office and he said "Kent Carey from the 1st Infantry Division?" It was my first batalion surgeon and he convinced me to go to medical school. I was accepted at UCLA and his medical school in Philadelphia so I went to his medical school. I finished and did Internal Medicine in Tucson and ER medicine in Los Angeles and as an ER doctor there and back in Tucson until I retired. I now volunteer in the VA Hospital ER once a week (not as a doctor) In California I also had my LVN and RN license since I could qualify due to my Army medical training back in the 1960s.

The draft is necessary but we should also include females. They are paramedics, work in the fire department, law enforcement so why not have the draft include them??????

So I feel the draft is necessary but should be expanded for both genders.

Kent V. Carey, sp6 Army medic

From: Justin Morahan [REDACTED]

Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 1:44:45 AM

To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>

Subject: military conscription

Follow up: Follow up

Follow up status: Completed

Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:26:00 PM

12/31/19

Friends

I strongly oppose the extension of military conscription in the US so as to include women in its snare.

On the occasion that this idea is mooted, it is a time for all anti-conscriptionists to make our voices heard. War is evil and a source of evil. Armies are the instruments of war. No human being should be brainwashed to imagine that killing other humans is good. That happens in armies. No human being should be trained to kill another human under conditions of blind obedience to the orders of a "superior" officer. But that too happens in armies. No human should be so deprived of freedom of conscience that the order of another stifles the voice of that same conscience. But that is precisely what happens in armies. The sound of "Kill! Kill! Kill!" should not be forced out of the mouths of young reservists marching before dawn through the streets of a remote town in New Mexico as they are preparing to murder other soldiers who in turn are similarly trained to kill them in wars prepared by thugs and based on lies.

For many centuries in many countries largely because of male domination over women, soldiering was the preserve of men. With the rise of feminism in certain parts, women were given the so-called right of perfecting themselves in the bloody art of killing and getting killed.

Brainwashing young people to join a killing army is wrong and evil. Forcing them to join is doubly evil. But now women are to be forced to join the killing grounds in the killing universities of the United States. This is wrong. Conscription is evil.

In the article cited above the reservists in question marched for over an hour in the remote New Mexico town and stopped outside the home of anti-war priest John Dear in an act of open provocation. The priest writes that he went out to the shouting soldiers and "I said loudly, publicly for all to hear, 'In the name of God, I order all of you to stop this nonsense, and not to go to Iraq. I want all of you to quit the military, disobey your orders to kill, and not to kill anyone. I do not want you to get killed. I want you to practice the love and nonviolence of Jesus. God does not bless war. God does not want you to kill so Bush and Cheney can get more oil. God does not support war. Stop all this and go home. God bless you.' "

Like John Dear I was once a priest but have left for lack of faith. If I had been in his position on that morning in New Mexico I would have done exactly as he did. I would have used his words. Now, without his faith, but wholeheartedly with the same essential message, I borrow some of his his words to say to you and to all soldiers and military: As a human being I order all of you to stop this nonsense, do not go to war anywhere. I want all of you to quit the military, disobey your orders to kill, and not to kill anyone. I do not want you to get killed. I want you to practise the love and nonviolence of Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King. War is cursed. Vested interests want you to kill, not for your country, not for freedom, but for themselves. Do not pretend that forcing women to join your killing armies is giving equality to women. Stop all this and go home. Love and peace to you all.

With best personal wishes

Justin Morahan

	Dublin, Ireland
12/31/19	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent on: Monday, December 30, 2019 9:15:30 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> CC: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Please abolish Selective Service system (the draft) and do NOT implement mandatory national "service" Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:30:00 PM As a former enlisted member of the U.S. Army Reserves (1991-1997), I would like to share my thoughts on the questions the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service has asked here: 1.) Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? It has value to the extent that it helps preserve freedom in the United States or elsewhere. But if the nature of the service is itself anti-freedom (i.e. involuntarily drafted), this benefit is severely diminished. 2.) How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By ensuring that military forces are not used as a tool of "national interest", but only in defense of freedom and human rights, with the Geneva Conventions and ethical safeguards against harming civilians strictly upheld, so that the reputation of soldiers is not besmirched and people who are young and idealistic as I was will be motivated to volunteer. Forcing people to "serve" will always be counter-productive. If something can't be accomplished via voluntary participation, maybe it is not such a deserving cause in the first place. 3.) What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The fact that people can see government is way out of control and behaving in all kinds of anti-freedom ways that do not deserve our support, such as spying on the American people, committing war crimes, and running up a huge public debt. 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? With more transparency about what skills are needed and exactly what purposes they will serve. Few smart, skilled and patriotic people will be motivated to join the U.S. government's military if they think that, like Edward Snowden, they may find themselves being used to do unconstitutional and morally indefensible work. 5.) Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. It never was. The ends do not justify the means, and violating freedom is not the way to protect it. 6.) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? The selective service system should be abolished. 7.) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Absolutely not.</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: David Storch [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 12:01:41 PM</p> <p>To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov></p> <p>Subject:</p> <p>Dear Madams? and Sirs,</p> <p>We are at a point in time in our Nations history where a commitment to service for our youth would be very helpful to our further growth and development as the greatest Country on earth.</p> <p>It is my further belief that to fulfill this objective SOS America deserves serious consideration.</p>

I am the Chairman of a publicly held aerospace service provider who employees approximately 1200 veterans out of a total workforce of approximately 6000. We find that people who have served have excellent work habits, are good team players and contribute in meaningful ways to our Company's performance and success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

David Storch

Sent from my iPhone

Disclaimer: IMPORTANT - This E-Mail is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this E-mail is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that reading, disseminating, distributing or copying this communication is strictly PROHIBITED. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify AAR CORP by e-mail and return the original message to us by e-mail. THANK YOU.

From: Suzanne Hess [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, December 30, 2019 8:49:36 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public comment on National Service

12/31/19

Commissioners

I support the SOS America proposal and recommend you include it in your Report.

As a retired School Teacher and military spouse, I feel a special one year military type service program would greatly benefit our Society. I am also a supporter of the Selective Service System and recommend it be expanded to include all youth regardless of their gender. Mixing geography, age, and backgrounds is a key to helping promote a healthy and productive citizen.

National Service for all our youth is timely and severely needed. Therefore, I strongly support SoS America and other National Service programs you have reviewed.

Suzanne

Retired Fairfax County Teacher

Sent from my iPhone

From: Louis Philipson <l-philipson@uchicago.edu>
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:15:43 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: United States Military Service Corps

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:26:00 PM

This note is to support the idea of the United States Military Service Corps. I support this idea for these reasons:

12/31/19

The military is the most trusted institution in the nation.

Military service is good for the individual and the nation.

Only a small percentage (10-20%) of American youth (18-25) qualify for the All Volunteer Force (AVF), National Guard or Reserve.

Therefore, the United States should create a special, voluntary, one year service military service program for the 18-25 cohort who are physically and mentally able to 'take care of themselves'. Accession, Training and Service will be in a small unit (@100 recruits) with leadership provided by two company grade officers and four (4) experienced Sergeants. The leadership cadre can include active, guard, reserve and activated retired personnel. The Selective Service System will be essential in providing administrative backbone for this initiative which will require legislation with the DOD as the executive agent.

This United States Military Service Corps (USMSC) can help support infrastructure projects, build housing for the homeless and support existing branches of the military. Service is expected to be in the support specialties (the 'tail') versus combat specialties (the 'tooth').

The benefit of mixing geography, ages, and backgrounds in a small unit that works together for a year is self evident and the individual, earned self esteem is another huge positive.

SOS America (Service over Self) at <http://www.sosamerica.org> presents the essentials of this initiative. A previously drafted legislative initiative is prepared.

There is national benefit for the military and agencies and the nation in that a common and shared military experience leads to mutual understanding and respect.

Thank you.

Louis Philipson, M.D., Ph.D., FACP
James C. Tyree Professor for Diabetes Research and Care
Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics- Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism
Director, Kovler Diabetes Center
President for Science and Medicine 2019, The American Diabetes Association
<http://www.kovlerdiabetescenter.org/>
<http://monogenicdiabetes.uchicago.edu/>

Www.diabetes.org
@lphilipson

	<p>900 E. 57th Street, KCBD Room #8140 The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637 phone 773-702-9180</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Wild Edges Nature Preserve [REDACTED] Sent on: Monday, December 30, 2019 10:42:43 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: General Comments Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:30:00 PM</p> <p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes, public service has immense value. It teaches you to handle and overcome challenges, put others before yourself, among other values to numerous to mention.</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? There is no real attempt to increase a desire to serve. In the last decade, it seems that most young Americans seem to be interested in celebrity gossip and getting rich quick. The main focus in most of America seems to be to only care about themselves.</p> <p>3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The barriers I have encountered were health preventing military service, low pay across all branches of public service, and politicians and media portraying public servants as lazy, greedy do-nothings.</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? Increases in pay can help increase participation, along with increasing the presence of outreach efforts at high schools and colleges (job fairs, career days, ect.) Offering benefits that can only be received via public service can also help.</p> <p>5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. An all voluntary fighting force will give everything they can possibly give for their country. The draft was never a good idea, when you essentially force someone into public service, they will be demoralized and never be inspired to achieve anything more than the minimal requirements.</p> <p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, the Selective Service System is outdated. Most of the laws were written in the 80's and early 90's, and are outdated. The laws also vastly differ by state, they should be replaced by a single set of rules from the federal government. There are also those who are completely unaware of the need to register, there needs to be a system that allows them to register even if they are over 26. Similar to how GED's are available to those who don't get a diploma from a high school.</p> <p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? A mandatory service requirement is not necessary, valuable, or feasible. People must be inspired to serve. I was inspired to try and serve by family members, TV shows, and other personal experiences. While I was not allowed to serve, these experiences left me with a desire to serve my country.</p> <p>Note: I would do whatever I could do to serve my country. I was inspired by family and by the many heroes (both real and fictional) I saw on TV. However health, age, and being completely unaware of choices made it almost impossible to serve. While I may not be able to serve, I believe that most Americans will respond if their country needs them. During the many shootings, natural disasters, and other life threatening moments, there are numerous stories of brave people rushing into danger to save random strangers. However there are many challenges to public service. Hostile politicians, media, and personal views can make it miserable to be in public service. People constantly calling you a lazy, greedy do-nothing on national TV can and do chase away numerous dedicated candidates. When coupled with low pay and politically motivated government shutdowns caused by out of touch leaders, this creates an environment that is hostile to those looking forward to public service.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bryce Gardner</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: belinda levin [REDACTED] Sent on: Sunday, December 29, 2019 10:37:17 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov></p>

Subject: Military, national, and public service

Follow up: Follow up

Follow up status: Completed

Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:31:00 PM

I refused induction during the Vietnam War.

I never thought that I would be advocating for the military draft but now I am because if we had the draft, I believe that we would not be in our endless and useless wars in the Mid East. If the military draft were to be reinstated then it should be required of both young men as well as young women.

I also believe that a national service or public service is a good idea because it would be good to get young people involved in something besides themselves.

The mechanics of all of this is complicated, i.e., length of service, mandatory or not, universal, exceptions to service, paying for the service, penalties for non compliance,

and other questions.

Nonetheless, it would be worth the trouble.

David Levin

From: Todd O [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, December 30, 2019 5:06:55 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draft Registration

12/31/19

	<p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 5:29:00 PM</p> <p>Commission, Please recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. Isn't it far past time as a nation, as a world, to move towards peaceful means, and really work hard to end all this senseless murdering and killing and violence? Peace over profits and killing and destruction please. Thank you, Todd U.S. Army Veteran</p>
12/31/19	<p>The National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box #63, Arlington, Virginia 22202</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I only learned of your commission a few weeks ago. Hopefully my remarks will be in time to be considered. To begin I am of a family that has served in the military from at least the civil war's union army, World Wars I & II, Korea and Vietnam. I am one of the 70% who enlisted for Vietnam, and served with the 1st Cavalry Division for two tours in 1969-1971. Today in our schools civics, US History and pride and respect for our institutions and country are not being taught at the level of even my generation. That needs to change. If students do not understand the three branches of government and checks and balances; their rights and responsibilities; and civil discourse and debate of issues, civic literacy and voter apathy will continue to have adverse effects on our democracy. As one who voluntarily joined when the draft was active, although avoiding it was not my motivation, I strongly feel that a public service requirement is necessary "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation" as the American Legion states in their preamble. As such and with the inclusion of women in all aspects of military service all citizens should be required to register when they reach age 18. I do not believe there should be any exceptions to this requirement. Further I strongly believe some commitment to public service should be a requirement to be fulfilled between the ages of 18 and 26. In my opinion very few exceptions would be made. How could this public service requirement be fulfilled? Military service would be one venue. A minimum commitment would be of 2 or 3 years. That could be at anytime in the age range for service. This would be on a volunteer basis to meet the public service requirement as to which branch of the 5 services and Military Occupational Specialty. College students could opt in via an ROTC commitment. Another option could be through working in any number of government authorized organizations such as the Peace Core, Vista, Americore, support for local emergency responders and disaster relief efforts, support for the Veterans Administration, Forest Service, BLM, National Parks, Natural Resource Conservation Service and others. As with the military a basic stipend would be provided while the person fulfilled their public service commitment of 2 or 3</p>

years.

} Enclosures:

} Page 2

As I stated above there should be no exceptions for registering. For persons with mental and/or physical handicaps some allowances would be made depending on the nature of their disability. The most severe would be fully exempted from the service requirement. Others would be offered placements that they could handle based on their ability levels. Those might be office or similar lighter duty occupations.

At successful completion of their public service commitment the person would receive an education credit like the current education benefit from military service. Those with disabilities could optionally use the credit toward needed therapy or specialized assistance. While the minimum requirement for public service would be the 2-3 years persons could initially sign up for longer terms or extend their time before the end of the minimum requirement occurred.

Regarding the 7 questions on your website, below are my brief comments. I hope above I have clarified my views on national public service and expanded comments on your questions.

1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? YES. A better understanding of public duty.

2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?

By providing a mechanism for all to serve at a young age (18-26)

3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Financial, lack of information on opportunities, totally volunteer versus required.

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? See comments above.

5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Very much in my opinion. Col David Hackworth, one of the most decorated soldiers in Vietnam, strongly felt that the draft had benefits to the services.

6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, women and all individuals should be required to register.

7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? YES. Other countries do this. If a variety of options for service are offered where persons view it as both a means to fund education and a way to gain work experience the requirement can have a positive view by the public.

12/31/19

From: John Borling [REDACTED]

Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 7:41:16 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Memo to National Commission on Service
Attachments: SOSFinalinput.docx (15.27 KB)

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:28:00 PM

31 Dec 2019

MEMO TO National I Commission on Service

FROM Major General John Borling (USAF-r), Founder, SOS America

SUBJECT Input to Final Report

“Who Talked to the President Last” is a fun and insightful book of the 70’s that has currency today given this last day for public comment.

Much like the staffing of a major Presidential speech, the ‘fight’ to get a concept or even a few lines inserted is an all-consuming task involving whole departments and, certainly, in my experience, key staff at the White House. Scratchings are made to the last moment.

This memo is a commended 'scratching' that bears on national renewal in the spirit of John Gardner and, certainly, in the spirit of the Commission. Current All Volunteer Force (AVF) requirements, structure and organization are conserved.

SOS America (Service over Self) advocates, ‘given demand’ from the Services, Guard, Reserve and Federal and State Agencies, a one year, voluntary, military service program for young adults in the 18-25 age range. Legislation is required and DOD would be the executive agent. The current Selective Service System would be maintained (or enlarged) to assist in 18-25 cohort management.

We have tested and polled the concept and specifics nationwide and find 78% support from the age 50 and over group (actually it favors ‘mandatory’ and two year service) with solid majority support from the 26-50 age group (the parents if you will). The 18-25 cohort breaks into 4 segments; young men, 18-20, (20 percent support), those, 21-25, (majority support), young women, 18-25, (express reluctance to ‘be in the military’ but want the option to be open and have definite thoughts about ‘the men’).

Young women, 18-20, are forceful in their majority estimation that the young men should serve because it will 'make men out of them'. Young women, 21-25, do not favor any program taking young men away for a year. When pressed as to rationale, it came down to 'biology matters most'.

The proposal for one year of voluntary service in a small unit for those physically and mentally able to take care of themselves (versus AVF requirements) providing for a mix of geography, ages (so important) and backgrounds seems simple enough but the details are more complex in order to insure practicability from a cost and benefit standpoint. There is abundant detail at www.sosamerica.org understanding that the legislative process will be determinant. To begin, a pilot program is recommended. Finally, the overall aim is about nation building in America.

Recommend: Circulation of this memo to staff and Commissioners, Review of the SOS America site and inclusion in the final report the words (or ideas) bolded in paragraphs four and seven above. Thank you and Happy New Year.

From: Mark Slaby [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 6:18:38 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: Mark Slaby [REDACTED]
Subject: SOS America Needs to be Included in the National Commission on Service Report to Congress.
Urgent: High

To whom it may concern....

As a private citizen, I wanted you to be aware of my continued support to SOS America (Service over Self).

I also represent many volunteers in the Illinois business and nonprofit community that are asking you to allow for SOS America (Service over Self) at <http://www.sosamerica.org> to be represented in the National Commission on Service March 2020 report to the Congress and the President.

The SOS America program deserves serious consideration and inclusion in the report as national polling demonstrates overwhelming support for such a program. I can tell you first hand many business and community leaders in Illinois often ask me why our Country has not already adopted this type of program. It is long overdue.

12/31/19

Many citizens know that the military is the most trusted institution in the nation. Military service is good for the individual, the community and the nation. We need to replicate the WW2 experience where large numbers served led to an unprecedented building of America post war, then a widespread military service option deserves serious review and inclusion in the National Commission's report.

There is tremendous national benefit for the military and agencies and the nation in that a common and shared military experience leads to mutual understanding and respect of our community and Country.

I look forward to hearing from you that the National Commission on Service has included SOS America to be represented in March 2020 report to Congress and the President.

Best to call me directly if you have any other questions regarding my support for this important initiative. 630-240-2578

Thanks,

Mark Slaby

Co-Founder & Volunteer

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From: Michael Moore [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 8:03:38 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Comments on Military, National and Public Service

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed

12/31/19

Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:29:00 PM

I have followed the work of the National Commission with interest as this has been an interest of mine for several years. By way of background I was an early Peace Corps Volunteer serving in El Salvador in the first group in Central America from 1962 to 1964. Following return to my Michigan home I enlisted in the Navy in lieu of the draft and served as an Officer in the Panama Canal Zone for three years. I continued to serve in the Naval Reserve for an additional 24 years retiring as a Captain in 1991. My civilian career was varied but primarily was as a forester for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for 36 years retiring as Director of the Department in 1996. I taught Forest Management at the University of Michigan for several years in the late 90's, served as Executive Director of a Foundation dealing with water issues, served on several advisory boards at Michigan State University. Volunteerism has been a hallmark in our family ... I served as chair of the local Library Board for 15 years culminating in the construction of a new \$7 million library. My wife and I continue to deliver Meals on Wheels and other assorted volunteer activities. No question that this is, in part, due to the sense of National Service that we gained by past activities. I would note that I gained more personally from my time in the Peace Corps and Navy than I ever contributed.

I recommend staff review the book Gratitude - Reflections on What We Owe to Our Country by William F. Buckley (1990). Here are the thoughts of a very conservative fellow with whom I rarely agreed pleading the case of our obligations to our country. Although not a perfect solution what he proposes should be reviewed by the Commission.

I might note that I am in favor of mandatory service of at least one year for all citizens with all of the options that are available or that can be instituted...civilian conservation type programs, conscientious objector programs of the past, military service, AmeriCorps type service, Job Camp options, Peace Corps, Teacher corps programs, and so forth. Contrary to Mr. Buckley I support providing stipends for the one year commensurate with the type work.

Good luck to the Commission. The Democratic Party platform of 1988 discussed a program providing "opportunities for voluntary national public service, above and beyond current services, that can enrich our communities". Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia was a leader in this effort. It is time to bring the spotlight on National Service.

Cordially,

Michael D. Moore
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

December 30,2019

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

Greetings in the Name of Jesus.

It is with deep gratitude that we have the freedom and privilege to express our firmly held Christian beliefs to our government. As Anabaptist Christians, we have often experienced our relationship with the U.S. government as a blessing in that we have been granted freedom to follow Christ according to our consciences. We are grateful that you have invited conversation around the question of national service. We greatly appreciate the interest of the Commission in sending Mr Barney to meet with us during our annual meeting in Ohio.

We are writing to share with you our strongly held Christian beliefs regarding the proposed recommendations of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service.

Following the teaching in Matthew 5 and in accordance with Jesus' example, we are called to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, pray for those who persecute us, refuse to violently resist the evildoer, and forgive as we have been forgiven. As conscientious objectors, we believe Jesus commands reverence for each human life since every person is made in the image of God. In following Jesus, we serve in ways that build up, nurture, and encourage rather than destroy. Our opposition to war is not cowardice but an expression of Christ's forgiving love as shown on the cross.

As churches in the Anabaptist tradition we stand firmly with those Christians throughout history who because of conscience were not able to participate in the military. One of the important reasons our spiritual ancestors migrated from Europe to America was for religious freedom, which included not participating in military service. We continue to embrace those same principles today.

In particular, we would like to respond to some of the Commission's interim recommendations:

- We are requesting that no law be enacted that would require universal obligation for men or women to serve in the military.
- As long as a government Selective Service System exists, we request that it continue to be civilian-led.
- We greatly appreciate the Selective Service System and its provisions for Conscientious Objectors and Alternative Service as well as the opportunity to develop relationships with the government representatives who would be responsible to deal with our position in event of a draft. We request that the SSS be retained. If not, we request that a plan be written into any draft provision law that would be made that outlines how CO's would be handled in event that a crisis would require a military draft in the future.
- We request that protections and alternative service programs be maintained for those who conscientiously object to military service.
- We respectfully request the inclusion of a provision to identify as a conscientious objector at the time of Selective Service registration.
- We recommend that women not be required to register for Selective Service.
- Because we believe that service by its nature should be a voluntary expression of care and Christian love for others, we request that universal mandatory service not be recommended.

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

Thank you for hearing our views.

Sincerely,

12/31/19

	<p>James Musser, Marvin Yoder, Tim Miller for the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program (CASP)</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Julianne Henington [REDACTED] Sent on: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 1:17:46 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Military service or national service</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:31:00 PM</p> <p>As a wife of an Air Force retiree and mother of an Army Reservist, I know first hand how the military leaves a permanent and positive effect on individuals for their entire life. Service to country not only strengthens ties to our nation, it fosters care and empathy to the people with whom one serves.</p> <p>Julianne Henington</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Michael Lloyd [REDACTED] Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 9:52:26 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: 1-year training program for appropriate U.S.youth</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:29:00 PM</p> <p>I strongly support voluntary military-like service for the majority of U.S.people aged 19-25. Furthermore, SOS America is in a unique position to implement such a program.</p> <p>Michael H Lloyd [REDACTED]</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Kien Pham [REDACTED] Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 7:59:07 PM</p>

To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: John Borling [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments to the Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to support the idea of a voluntary one-year para-military service proposed by SOS America (Service over Self). This can be an important initiative to help transform American youth and give our young citizens a way to express themselves positively and productively in a small group cohesiveness under guidance from a qualified military professional team.

I urge you to consider SOS America proposal in your report to our national leaders.

Sincerely,

Kien Pham
President

VN Mobile: [REDACTED]

"Improving the lives of Vietnamese people through Education"

Sorry if you see typos. This email comes from a blind man on mobile device!

From: Curly Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 7:33:50 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: SOS America Program

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:28:00 PM

Dear Mr. President and Congressional Leaders.

I am a Vietnam Veteran USMC who supports the need for continued support to Defend this Great Nation in any capacity. Therefore, I urge you to please give this program serious consideration and inclusion in your end of the year report.

12/31/19

Respectfully submitted,
Stanley 'Curly ' Thompson
Sergeant USMC

From: john saphir [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:16:17 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: SOS America.

Follow up: Follow up
Follow up status: Completed
Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:30:00 PM

Please include SOS America in the National Commission on Service

Report. It's as important for young individuals as it is for the
nation. It deserves your utmost consideration and inclusion in the

Report. It will be a program we can all be proud of.

I hope we can count on your support.

Very Respectfully,

John M. Saphir ,

LTJG, USN

12/31/19

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John Saphir

From: Jim Cornelison [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 6:30:34 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: SOS America

Dear Mr President and members of the US Congress,

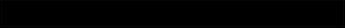
I strongly support the initiative led by my friend John Borling, Maj Gen (ret) www.sosamerica.org. As a citizen growing up in the Pacific Northwest with two parents who were WW2 vets I have always been aware of the contributions our military makes to the country and around the world that promote democratic values, peace and human rights. Further, having grown up around the forests of the Cascade Mountains and the agriculture of the Columbia Basin I have always been familiar with the CCC programs of pre WW2. Putting people to work to better our country and world not only improves infrastructure but creates better citizens through an understanding of American values and the exposure to American citizens that come from across the country and work together for common purpose.

I have been the National Anthem Singer for the Chicago Blackhawks for the past 12 years. In that time we have won 3 Stanley Cups and I have been propelled into the spotlight at the largest sporting event in the world as the new voice of the Indianapolis 500. These platforms have led to many other performances of national import and with the interviews that come from this exposure I have repeatedly had the opportunity to speak about veterans issues. Naturally, I have become a regular performer and guest at veteran events through out Illinois and Indiana. I am always struck by the quality of our service personnel and by their sense of purpose.

Our young people need a sense of purpose. Our country needs to believe in itself. Because the military is the most trusted institution in the nation and military service is good for the individual and the nation yet too small a percentage of people participate in it, I strongly support SOSAmerica.org 's efforts to create a special, voluntary, one year service program for adults 18-25 years old. The benefit of mixing geography, ages, and backgrounds in a small unit that works together for a year is self evident and the earned self esteem for the individual is another huge positive. There is national benefit for the military and agencies and the nation in that a common and shared military experience leads to mutual understanding and respect. There is expectation for the future.

12/31/19

SOS America (Service over Self) at <http://www.sosamerica.org> presents the essentials of this initiative. A previously drafted legislative initiative is prepared.

	<p>If the WW2 experience where large numbers served led to an unprecedented building of America post war, then a widespread military service option deserves serious review and inclusion in the National Commission's report.</p> <p>Most sincerely and with hope and love of what America means,</p> <p>Jim Cornelison </p>
12/31/19	<p>From:  Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 9:23:19 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject:</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:39:00 PM</p> <p>Even though we are not inducting men into the military a registration certificate sss form 2 Should be issued to all registrants.</p>
12/31/19	<p>From:  Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 9:31:50 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject:</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:41:00 PM</p> <p>You can also issue the notice of classification sss form 110 With the 1H classification which currently apply to all registrants.</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Dave Rydell  Sent on: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 3:47:34 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov></p>

Subject:

Ladies/Gentlemen.

All Americans are so fortunate to live in the greatest country in human history founded on a fantastic constitution granting liberty to all along with separation of power so no individual / group gains too much power.

Young Americans have an opportunity to say thank you for this gift by giving a year of service to SOS, which, at today's expected longevity, is only 1 & 1/4 % of their anticipated life span.

David Rydell - financial and American Citizen supporter of SOS.

Sent from my iPhone

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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<https://www.bergstrominc.com>

12/31/19	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent on: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 9:23:19 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject:</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:39:00 PM</p> <p>Even though we are not inducting men into the military a registration certificate sss form 2 Should be issued to all registrants.</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Paul Sheldon [REDACTED] Sent on: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 4:29:01 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Draft registration is not right.</p> <p>Follow up: Follow up Follow up status: Completed Completed on: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:42:00 PM</p> <p>There is no justification for a draft in the service of a true democracy based on freedom. It is time to end draft registration.</p>
12/31/19	<p>From: Peter Jesella [REDACTED] Sent on: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 3:42:07 AM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Part 1: Final reminder & new recommendations for Final Report, registration at 17, see H.R. 3464, Sec. 9 = S. 994 Attachments: @Inspire2ServeUS May 16 hearings in D.C. with @PJesella on 17th birthday registration 1-year talk on civic education and service.png (2.17 MB), @RepSpeier Nov 2019.png (5.27 MB), Oral remarks Congresswomen Jackie Speier, Chair of Subcommittee on Military Personnel.docx (1.73 MB), Summary Natil Comm Brad Smith, Pres. Microsoft Au, Tools and Weapons.docx (4.8 MB), Courtesy of Peter Jesella.docm (72.12 KB), Section 9 HR 3464 S994 21st Century American Service Outreach Program.docx (14.62 KB), New Recommendations for Final Report.docx (19.51 KB), Color ver 2010 Replace Selective Service System with Participatory Citizenship Internet Network.doc (877 KB), Not My Turn Article National Service 4-04.doc (32.5 KB), @BradSmi Pres, @Microsoft, Co-author of #ToolsAndWeapons.png (5.03 MB)</p>

A screen shot of a person

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#1 Attached File: May 2019, Comm. Hearings Wash. D.C.; day 2.

A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated

#2 Attached File: Nov. 2019, me with Congresswomen Jackie Speier, at book tour on her auto-bio; indicated awareness of Comm. Work, but needed to review H.R. 3464 per my request to be a co-sponsor.

#3 Attachment is Oral remarks to Commission hearing in Wash. D.C. 2019 over two-days, with added intro, ending, and minor changes; this copy given to Congresswomen Jackie Speier.

#4 Attachment is Commission's two-page summary modified with links to Commission Interim Report, and info about me; this copy given to President Brad Smith of MicroSoft.

#5 Attachment is first 2-pages of H.R. 3464 that I have also shared with many the last six months

#6 Attachment is Section 9 of H.R. 3464, one-page outline on informing all youth at 17 birthday about community and military service opportunities.

#7 Attachment New Recommendations for Final Report, including:

Highest priority for Commission's to do list of policy suggestions:

Data is a critical national security competition with China in the AI future of better strategic Federal policy planning.

Feedback loops from institutional and individual stakeholders towards recommendations by Commission to Congress, Executive Administration and general public. Unclear how to create a system of informed participation and crosstalk in a open source setting, but clearly needed in order to move this policies forward into every-zip-code awareness.

Lower priority considerations: on consciences objector box on registration form, changing penalties for failure to register, and that maintaining draft registration as an insurance policy for more than combat duty, but other national security threats to the nation that have long-term consequences.

#8 Attachment summary of 1979 bill on replacing Selective Service System with a National Youth Service System.

#9 Unpublished article sent to Time Magazine

#10 Pic Brad Smith Pres. MicroSoft

I seem to have reach my attach file data size limits, will send this as Part 1, with additional photo encounters and info in Part 2.

Peter Jesella

From: Peter Jesella [REDACTED]

Sent on: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 4:09:45 AM

To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>

Subject: Part 2: additional photo encounters and support documents for Part 1.

Attachments: Stanely McChrystal added +Colin Powell WAC 2012 Conf 2011 04 21 Guber & Denning Edited 4 + 4 Photo Letter to Myers Oman Map.doc (9.08 MB), QDR Colonel H R McMaster cove letter July 25 2006.doc (5.98 MB), 2 BusinessWeek & WSJ Letter to Editors .docx (20.1 KB), 2 goals youth corps and solar power San Jose News.doc (39.5 KB), @brhodes Pod Save The World, MSNBC, National Security Action, Author The World As It Is A Memoir of the Obama White House.png (3.82 MB), Honorable Senator John McCain.doc (25 KB), Comments to Melinda Gates on her Time magazine educational request on What grads need to hear.docx (18.59 KB)

Fuzzy pic of Jill Biden, got info on National Service challenge to Presidential candidates.

Attachment Stanley McChrystal copy of letter to Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff from around 2002, with add copies to others.

Cover letter 2006 to Colonel H R McMaster

2 letters to the editor of BusinessWeek and WSJ.

2 articles from 1980 on me, my proposal for Youth Energy Efficiency Corps as a part of bill in Congress to modify Selective Service System into a National Service System.

Pic with Ben Rhodes

Letter given to Senator John McCain

Comments to Melinda Gates on her Time magazine article on education.

12/31/19

Thomas J Donohue President of U.S. Chamber of Commerce @USChamberAction

Steve Forbes CEO Forbes Magazine

A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated

Rep Devin Nunes

Rep Adam Schiff

A couple of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated A person reading a book

Description automatically generated

A person wearing a suit and tie

Description automatically generated

I did not name those that you probably clearly know, other than me Peter Jesella being in each photo.

	<p>Not clear why but could not add on additional photos as attachments, got error message to much memory required, but was able to insert them into email.</p> <p>Remember this is add on Part 2 to Part 1, due to limits indicated by my email system.</p> <p>Look forward to Final Report, and hope some Republicans embrace your recommendations.</p> <p>Not sure if I missed adding other reading material for you, but the clock is ticking, time to close and celebrate a new 2021 New Year.</p> <p>████████████████████</p>
12/31/19	As a former oficer in the Navy I wish that such service should always be voluntary, pre-meditated, and not the result of brain-washing.
12/31/19	The current wars are unconstitutional and immoral. They should not be supported by anyone. Any system that does support them should be abolished.
12/31/19	I write to you to express support to end draft registration and appreciate your willingness to listen, and hear the voice of public citizens. Our ability as people to solve + come to solution without war is possible. Ending draft registration being a large symbolic step in supporting our human potential of good.
12/31/19	Hello, please eliminate the selective service process. It is offensive to our basic principles of non-violence, peace, and grace in our lives.
12/31/19	Dear Commissioners, I am writing to urge you to abolish the compulsory registration with selective service. It is inconsistent with a free society to force everyone to register regardless of their individual circumstances and religious convictions.
12/31/19	We should not be compelled to participate in the act of killing fellow humans or the way to solve problems of the state.
12/31/19	Selective service needs to resepect the democracy we believe in -- allowing options for men, women, COs, immigrants, include everyone even the wealthy.
12/31/19	With freedom being the very basis of our nations foundation, I urge you to support the freedom of all individuals to act on their conscience to preserve life rather than going to war.
12/31/19	I am writing to ask you to abolish the compulsory registration with selective service. As a Quaker, I have raised my children to respect the sacredness of life. Please make the SSS voluntary.
12/31/19	Please eliminate the selective service process. It is offensive to our basic principles of non-violence, peace and grace in our lives.
12/31/19	This system unfairly puts undocuments people in the position of being required to register + then risk deportation.

12/31/19	<p>I am writing to you to express that the draft should not be re-instituted. Our country should not be sending more of our men and women into combat to get injured or killed. We have learned since the Vietnam war that these wars have been based on false information and we don't "win" them. What our country needs are more men and women to be diplomats, they can help us to not be in wars.</p>
12/31/19	<p>Tuesday, December 17, 2019 Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63 Arlington, VA 22202</p> <p>This letter is in response to the Commission's request for comments on military, national, and public service. My comments are on the performance of women in the armed forces, the draft, and combat. My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Air Force. In addition, I assume either draft registration of some sort will continue or there will be a draft itself in response to a deteriorating national security environment. I do not address the necessity or morality of a draft or registration.</p> <p>Performance</p> <p>It should not be necessary to make the argument that women can successfully adapt to military life and serve effectively in all military specialties under all conditions. The history of the last 80 years makes it extraordinarily clear they can and have.</p> <p>For example, in World War II, their performance was outstanding from the unbelievably primitive conditions of front-line field hospitals in Europe, to the Women's Airforce Service Pilots in the United States (technically civilians, but nevertheless the first Americans to wear what is today known as Air Force Blue), to the western Pacific, where, unfortunately, some were prisoners of war in Santo Tomas, Philippines. I know of their performance because a former neighbor in my youth was a Women's Army Corps member who made it all the way from the hills of West Virginia to Japan. Her enthusiasm for her service matched that of my aunt who was a member of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, better known as the WAVES.</p> <p>The humble expansion of service roles for women during World War II was culturally dramatic at the time but has since been dwarfed by spectacular achievements during the last 18 years of combat operations in the Middle East and South Asia. Contemporary events have been vividly described in numerous books, videos, and blogs, making it unnecessary to substantiate this claim by citing vignettes or statistics from recent events.</p> <p>Draft</p> <p>For those who might argue that requiring women to be subject to a military draft is unprecedented, note that there is no precedent for the United States either but we are here, and there is precedent for the Congress moving to draft women. At the beginning of 1945, the shortage of nurses in the armed forces was so severe -- a 42% shortage at Army hospitals in the United States alone -- that President Roosevelt addressed it in his January 6th radio address on the State of the Union. He said "[w]e need 20,000 more trained nurses" and called on Congress "to amend the Selective Service Act to provide for the induction of registered nurses into</p>

the armed forces." The president of the American Nurses Association supported the idea but only as a start for selective service for all women. The House of Representatives approved the Nurses Selective Service Act of 1945 (H.R. 2277) by 347 to 42 on March 7, 1945, and the Senate Military Affairs Committee approved a nurse draft measure on March 28th. But 41 days later, Germany surrendered, allowing the transfer of nurses from the European theater to the Pacific. This, combined with an increase in volunteers, alleviated the shortage.

Combat

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

Congress created the Commission after interesting legislative developments in 2016 in the House Armed Service Committee and the United States Senate. That was the year women and the draft emerged as a noteworthy political issue. Ten years ago, I wrote a OpEd for my local newspaper, The Fairfield (California) Daily Republic, rebutting a syndicated OpEd that voiced objections to assigning women to combat duties. Copies of both are attached. The response to mine was interesting: no response at all. I wasn't surprised. The people were far ahead of the politics, and they still are.

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

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

Not to include women in a draft registration requirement is to institutionally diminish the need for the talents and skills of just over 50% of the population and overtly imply they are second-class and not needed at critical historical moments, thus de facto denying them full citizenship and relegating them to a permanent back seat in all aspects of American life. Such a stance flies in the face of demonstrated and proven performance of

women, contemptuously ignores the talent of over half of Americans, and grotesquely dishonors the service and sacrifices of those women who have served throughout our Nation's history. Omitting women from a draft registration requirement would be just plain insulting to those who have gone before and those women who have the potential to contribute, and that's all of them.

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

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

National Service

Finally, please dispense with the notion of mandatory national or public service other than a military draft.

The 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution against involuntary servitude renders the concept i;;:t:h0r

.~

Allan G. Johnson, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2 attachments:

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

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

OTHER VOICES

Women, combat and Neanderthals

By ALLAN JOHNSON

etsy Hart's column "Women

'attached' to combat units"

(Daily Republic, Sept. 1,

2009) clearly shows she hasn't

"been there." Unlike her, I've

seen the performance of our

young service members -- men

and women -- "up close and personal."

Ms. Hart, however, relies

on Elaine Donnelly, a self-appointed

"expert" on military culture.

Ms. Donnelly an expert? Oh, really.

In which service was she? The Salvation Army, perhaps? .

Ms. Hart writes she shuddered at a photo of "GI Jane" 'carrying an assault rifle. But she didn't shudder because she has three daughters. She shuddered because there are young women who have a different, better and more self~confident view of themselves and our country than she. And I for one -- the son of a mother who earned a living and a father who stayed home and raised the children -- am glad. They have better opportunities than my mother ever did when she was their age during the Great Depression.

I served with many exceptional women and can still see their faces, all filled Withenthusiasm: Here are a few: the young, amazing instructor pilot and outstanding aircrew commander who was rated the number one company grade officer in an air wing with more than 1,800 captains and lieutenants; the smart, young sailor who worked with some of my aircrew on an interesting problem; the sun-baked soldier pulling guard duty who was a deadly shot with her rifle.

Then there's the only child of a

retired Marine Corps gunnery sergeant. He called in shock early one morning, unable to sleep, to say his daughter had joined the Marines and was shipping out to boot camp in a few hours. He said he never thought all his talk about , the Corps would rub off on her. And it did: she made gunnery sergeant in fewer than 13 years. She'll keep getting promoted; I've brought him a steak dinner on it. Here are on the way. This year, the starting class at West Point is 14 percent women and 20 percent at the Air Force Academy. At the Naval Academy it's 25 percent -- an all-time high. We now have young women -- and men -- signing up whose mothers are veterans. Fifty-three percent of Americans support allowing women to join combat units. Support increases to 63 percent among women under 45. If the thought of young women not staying home and baking cookies makes Ms. Hart a little queasy, then these figures must give her an intense case of GI diarrhea. But most insulting is her objection to women volunteering to join combat units. She dishonors women who have already served,

especially the daring members of Team Lioness. It is offensive and un-American to imply that the noble efforts of these pioneers are unworthy. What do the S7 (as of last year) active duty women generals and admirals have to say about her views?

Ms. Donnelly's says "rules governing all-male combat units are there for reasons of mission effectiveness and forceprotection."

, >4,

Nonsense. They're there because of a handful of fossil-brains in a previous Congress and a few tongue-clucking old hens too chicken to have worn the uniform of the United States of America. Yes, women being "attached" to ground combat units instead of being "assigned" is pretty much a distinction without a difference, but it lets our Army effectively use everyone's talent, and it's not being done stealthily. Congress knows what's going on. Senators and representatives read the news, too. They know the services must meet their needs based on people's capabilities, not their chromosomes. And don't bother with that canard about physical strength. The notion women aren't capable of

performing in ground combat has been ripped to shreds in the Middle East and central Asia. It must irk today's Neanderthals that this occurred under the previous president who verbally championed their right-wing "values." Do I feel their pain? Ofcourse not, but I hope they hear my laughter. And, yes, I'm laughing.at you, Ms. Hart and Ms. Donnelly, because your backward ideas should be laughed at. The Neanderthals are unhappy because the future rejects their values. They're not ready for change, but the restofthe United States is. And like the Neanderthals of old, they will die out. Ms. Hart and her ilk shouldn't be taken seriously. They haven't I'been there."

Allan Johnson is a retired lieutenant colonel who lives in Fairfield. He has more than 4,000 hours in Air Force aircraft.

t
Women 'attached' to combat units
And there she was
in all her glory:
GI Jane on the
front page of this
past Sunday's New
York Times. An
American soldier in

Iraq, huge assault rifle
in her arms, a
woman on a mission.
Maybe it's because
I have three
young daughters that I
shuddered.
'No doubt this is an incredibly
courageous
woman. But that doesn't
give the American military
the right to unnecessarily
put her into combat in direct
contravention of current
American law and its
implicit contract with
women recruits.
Times reporter'Lizette
Alvarez essentially lauds
the fact that Army commanders
are quietly, and on
a widespread scale, placing
women in combat units
legally required to be allmale.
The women are technically
'attached" -- 'not "assigned"
~to such units. But
the designation becomes irrelevant.
When the unit is
needed on the field, they all
go and fight side by side.
Elaine Donnelly is president
of the Center for Military
Readiness and an ex-

, pert on military culture. She served on the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces during the first Bush administration. Donnelly told me, "The courage of the women involved in these operations is never in question. They are doing everything that is being asked of them. From the Hart The problem is that Pentagon officials are asking too much, and often in violation of regulation and law." She explained that rules governing all-male combat units are there for reasons of mission effectiveness and force protection. - In other words, she said, "It does not advance women's 'equality' to put them into direct ground combat they are not equally able to survive, or to help fellow soldiers survive." For starters, she notes that different standards for physical tests, or "gender norming," are common in

the military:
It's certainly not right to integrate women stealthily. The Army is required to notify Congress of any change in regulation involving women in or near direct ground combat units, such as the infantry, which directly attack the enemy. It has 30 legislative days, or about three months, before the change is implemented, to do so. But the Army has been attaching women to all-male battalions at least since late 2004 without legally notifying Congress. While they have often performed well, having women in combat "has altered military culture" on the battlefield, Alvarez notes. Separate bunks and bathrooms are needed. Sexual discrimination, rape, sexual harassment and pregnancy are all issues the Army is trying to cope with. But such issues are mentioned almost as a cost of doing business. And since the increasingly widespread practice of attaching women

to combat units started after the major offensive combat operations in Baghdad and Fallujah, the efficacy of these units has not been fully tested.

Most of all, it should be troubling to women that the Army has not met its requirements for alerting Congress of the change.

When a female is recruited, she knows she may well be going into harm's way. But she is not being told that in contravention of current American law, she may in practice be placed into a combat unit required to be all male. And like any other soldier, when she is told to go into a unit she has no choice. -

Donnelly maintains (gasp) that "the vast majority of women in the armed forces do not want to engage in direct ground combat." . She bases this on her experience serving on the presidential commission and hearing from enlisted women.

It's literally not what they

-signed up for. Maybe the Army doesn't tell them the real deal because recruiters know well that many women would not enlist if they knew the facts. And then, of course, the Army wouldn't meet its politically correct "expectations" for recruiting women soldiers.

And, by the way, if there were no longer official rules keeping women out of direct , ground combat, almost certainly the American Civil Liberties Union would go back to court on behalf of men and argue that women should have to register for the Selective Service. The ACLU would likely win, and America is not ready for that.

What an irony. Those who I advocate full inclusion of women in direct combat suggest that women are up to the job. Only they won't be . honest with my daughters, or ' women themselves, or the American people about exactly what that job is.

Betsy Hart hosts the "It Takes a Parent" radio show

on WYLL-AM 1160 in Chicago.

Reach her through [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For more stories,
visit scrippsnews.com.

Dear

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

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

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

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

-George Fox, Declaration to Charles II, 1660.

Here are some thoughts for your consideration:

We call for the abolition of the Selective Service System (SSS) as it currently exists. We call on our political leaders, and commit ourselves to work with renewed dedication to abolish it. We shall oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. We do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion. SSS registration should be eliminated.

- It is especially egregious to have this program continue without a provision to declare oneself a conscientious objector.
- Penalties for noncompliance are not proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disadvantages, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.

As a nation with a large immigrant population, we feel it is particularly important to remove the disqualification for residents and undocumented people from the ability to apply for citizenship if they have not registered

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with the SSS. Many child immigrants are not aware of their legal obligation to register. Removal of such penalties should also be retroactive.
We raise our children to respect the sacredness of life. It is inconsistent with these ideals to compel all residents to register with Selective Service and potentially be forced to learn to kill.
Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Pope, clerk
Santa Barbara Friends Meeting December 2019

National Commission on Military,
National, and Public Service
Attn: RFI Comment-Docket 05-2018-01
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite 1000,Rm.1029
Arlington, VA. 22202
Dear Sirs:
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Commission for this opportunity to affirm my Christian beliefs regarding changes to the military Selective Service system.
In regards to the issue of national service, I want to share with you my own personal feelings and strongly held Christian beliefs. On March 12, 1971, I was assigned to preform 24 months of alternative service as a religious Conscientious Objector. I found work at a local Jewish Hospital after trying to find work at various non profit and religious organizations. I continued working in the health care industry for another 25 years.
As a person of heterodox Christian faith, I am thankful that under our Constitution I had the freedom to follow my conscience, and to be free of coerced participation in war and militarism. Following the teaching of Jesus in the Ethic of Reciprocity (Matt. 7) and the Beatitudes (Matt.5), we are called to be the ambassadors of peace, and to demonstrate relevance to life, (Deut.5). Our opposition to war is an expression of our personal conviction that each person is made in the image of God. Serving others and overcoming evil with good are the core value of Christians. Therefore, I join my voice with those that are concerned by the Commission's conflation of service to

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	<p>the community with military service. As long as the Selective Service System exists, I strongly support its continued civilian leadership. I offer my suggestion, however, that conscientious objectors be included in the system's process wherever possible.</p>
12/31/19	<p>December 20,2019 Dear Sir: I am a military veteran of 27 years and was drafted during the Vietnam conflict. I served in Saigon for a year and a half and was one of the lucky ones to return home safely. I read through your Interim Report Executive Summary with respect to the Selective Service System that you are considering an option to expand the registration requirement to include women. I strongly oppose this consideration. Why are you even considering drafting women when they have no business in the military in the first place. They do not belong in the military except maybe in very limited positions that require them to wear a dress and not a man's uniform. Our current military is way overly saturated with women and this is not good. When I was in the service, the very few women that were in were not even allowed on Navy ships. Now they are all over the place. There is nothing more disgusting than to see a female in combat boots and fatigues or even in a sailor's dress blue uniform. To make matters worse, the DOD has relaxed the strict uniform and grooming rules and regulations that apply to men in order to accommodate women. Now the women in the military can wear their hair long or in a pony tail. How pathetic is this and what an insult to the men in uniform. A mother who abandons her kids at home to enlist in the military should be ashamed of herself and the DOD should not allow this to happen. Please don't tell me that times have changed. The military has always been a male environment and it must remain that way and women do not belong. I always thought the Marines were a select group of rough and tough men. Not anymore. They allow women in their ranks and that makes them a bunch of weaklings. It seems to me that the military recruiters are scraping the bottom of the barrel by enlisting any female that walks in through their doors in order to meet recruitment goals. If worse comes to worse, initiate the draft again for men only no women. Our young generation of pot smoking men of today need to experience military discipline that will teach them to become better members of society. Because of their physical anatomy, women in the military will never by combat ready. The majority of men don't want them in their ranks and are forced to put up with them. What a sad state of affairs. On the same subject, transgender people should not be allowed to serve in the military for reasons that should be obvious to any politician with any lick of common sense.</p>

	<p>I hope that you in the National Committee will take my thoughts and comments seriously and act on them. There is no doubt that the current number of women in the military needs to be vastly reduced if we are to have strong fighting force. The answer is simple stop enlisting women in the military. Thank you.</p>
12/31/19	<p>December 2019 Dear members of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) considered the questions of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service regarding the Selective Service System registration. We appreciate this opportunity to make our concerns known to the Commission. Since our founding, Quakers have the conviction that it is our duty as a people of faith to urge world leaders to work for alternatives to war in solving human conflicts. "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world." -George Fox, Declaration to Charles II, 1660. Here are some thoughts for your consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We call for the abolition of the Selective Service System (SSS) as it currently exists. We call on our political leaders, and commit ourselves to work with renewed dedication to abolish it. We shall oppose attempts to expand SSS mandatory registration, however constructive the alleged purpose. We do not support efforts at reform; the issue is not equal treatment under compulsion, but freedom from compulsion. SSS registration should be eliminated. • It is especially egregious to have this program continue without a provision to declare oneself a conscientious objector. • Penalties for noncompliance are not proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disadvantages, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a driver license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. • As a nation with a large immigrant population, we feel it is particularly important to remove the disqualification for residents and undocumented people from the ability to apply for citizenship if they have not registered with the SSS. Many child immigrants are not aware of their legal obligation to register. Removal of such penalties should also be retroactive. <p>We raise our children to respect the sacredness of life. Training people to kill is inconsistent with this ideal. National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society. ;~i'.p~ Stephen Pope, clerk</p>

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting

BS"D

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box #63,

Arlington, Virginia 22202

info@inspire2serve.gov

www.inspire2serve.gov

Dec. 31, '19

Re: selected comments on service

Esteemed Commissioners,

Hello, my name is Rabbi Noson Shmuel Leiter, of Rockland County, NY. On a personal note, in recognition of the importance of voluntary communal service, I've been volunteering my services on a number of issues for about two decades now, ranging from advocacy for victims of child molestation, to religious liberty concerns, to advocating for the protection of innocent life at it's beginning and end, among other concerns. Volunteering for the community is something I've learned by example from my parents, my grandparents (who lived and served in distinguished Rabbinical capacity for decades, in Pittsburgh PA and Milwaukee WI respectively), and from Rabbis and others in the Orthodox Jewish community, many of whom routinely selflessly devote untold hours for others, without expectation of recompense.

In that light, a few remarks are in order here. It is not despite the importance of voluntary service - but precisely because of it - that public service must be safeguarded against moral subversion, be it by government, corporate, or other entities.

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As perhaps the Founders would put it, unrelenting vigilance is necessary to preserve our liberty to serve in a manner that in no way contradicts our overriding obligation to serve G-d. And if ever the Founders would put us on high-alert for such a danger, it is in times such as these, when moral subversion has heavily infiltrated both political parties, and when, under "Equality," all manner of things immoral and exploitive get government mandates.

As an example of what happens when government dictates the parameters of mandatory service, particularly when done in a manner with little deference to the need to ensure that women are exempted - regardless of whether they have religious objections or not - we have, unfortunately, not far to look. The decades of Israeli conscription of women has been an abject failure of public policy. It's also something about which I know personally. Over the past year, along with other volunteers in the Orthodox community, I've been volunteering hundreds of hours in assisting Israeli girls and women avoiding being forced into an exploitive, morally corrosive military environment, or, in some cases, aiding them in escaping from mistreatment therein.

For example, see these selected updates on the crisis of conscription of girls & women into the Israeli military:

<https://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/12/modern-day-yedudis-heroism.html>

https://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/12/facilitating-suicide_51.html

<http://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/12/crime-wave-strikes-israeli-girls.html>

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<https://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/11/breaking-heartbreaking-news-army.html>

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<https://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/11/breaking-very-laws-they-make.html>

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<https://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/10/racial-profiling-or-pure-antireligious.html>

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<https://daattorah.blogspot.com/2019/10/making-racism-great-again.html>

	<p>is an opportunity to provide those who volunteer needed direction, discipline, and purpose.</p> <p>2. The program will help to unify and build mutual understanding and respect among the youth from diverse backgrounds as they serve together on a variety of projects that contribute to the greater good in our country. Self confidence and pride in work well done will be evident in the participating youth.</p> <p>3. The SOS America program is one example of what our country especially needs now. National polling demonstrates overwhelming support for it. It is intentional in promoting actions to bring the participants together in valuing our democracy and learning how to work cooperatively with one another.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for the serious consideration you can give to including the SOS America program in the report to be presented to Congress in March 2020</p>
12/31/19	<p>The Commission stated it is examining what motivates military, national, and public service in order to identify ways to encourage more of our fellow Americans to follow their lead.</p> <p>I suggest the opinions of experts should be coupled with experimentation with a variety of models.</p> <p>Because understanding motives is so very elusive, it seems that expanding the reach of the program requires a government-private sector partnership.</p> <p>Experience suggests any single approach is unlikely to attract more than a small portion of eligible individuals. Accordingly, wider participation will require multiple approaches.</p> <p>I support the SOS America (Service over Self) approach. Its design and the backgrounds of its creators makes it ideal for at least the test approach if not full adoption</p>
12/31/19	<p>Attn: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service</p> <p>Howdy Friends,</p> <p>I believe that draft registration needs to be ended for everyone and not extended to women.</p> <p>And, most certainly, I believe that the Draft should never be reinstated.</p> <p>For those already affected... criminal, civil federal, and state penalties for failure to register needs to be stopped and overturned.</p> <p>I also believe that National Service needs to remain voluntary and that compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a free and democratic society.</p>

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

We are all in this together.

Holding you in the LIGHT,

Howard R. Schulman

December 26, 2019

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

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

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

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

It is essential for you to consider all the implications of a regulation for “voluntary national service”. First, it should not be called “voluntary” when it is required by a government regulation. It is important that people know that there could be a requirement for national service. Many people who oppose war or the ideas of conscription don’t realize what such a requirement could mean. They may think that national service is a term that would mean work in some government agency or office rather than the military. Or that it would require some of the kinds of work that are needed for the country as a whole – like

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rebuilding the bridges that had been done under FDR. Maybe they don't realize that it could include actions that are constantly being done voluntarily for others in the USA. That would be insulting as it would indicate that citizens whose work is needed for the country are needed more for the military than for the rest of us; that we are lower class.

What needs to be done in a compulsory national service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who makes those decisions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who would select and monitor these boards?

	<p>- Evaluate universal service. What qualifies as such? Should each be rated accordingly by amount of time needed; by numbers of people who are helped; by type of work done? Must decide on the value of a service and get together a list of services with the value of each one. When a person registers to do a specific service, the person signing them in must be able to have something to refer to and make a decision as to its value and how it meets the requirement. For how long, or for how many times, does it take to fulfill each specific requirement?</p> <p>A list, with descriptions, must be made of approved services. Who would collect all these descriptions? Who would select and monitor the boards with this responsibility? Beyond existence of this list, would there need to be a mechanism for informing everyone what their options for service are before they register for one? After the early, required registration, when should a choice be recorded? (This relates to the first paragraph of these observations of the proposal for a national service.)</p> <p>Marguerite Hasbrouck ████████████████████ ██████████ ██████████████ ██████████████ ██████████ ██████████████ ████████████████████</p>
12/31/19	<p>Please support the Repeal of Military Selective Service Act to eliminate the Selective Service System. Please co-sponsor the repeal by co-sponsoring: H.R 5492. Pat Hardy.Santa Barbara, CA</p>
12/31/19	<p>I am respectfully asking the Commission to recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration. As a veteran, I don't believe that the draft is a necessary component to national security. Thank you, Jered Cargman</p>
12/31/19	<p>Repeal the Selective Service Act. Enact H.R. 5492.</p>
12/31/19	<p>A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable, or feasible. Please recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration.</p>
12/31/19	<p>Pass this bill and end the Selective Service.</p>
12/31/19	<p>burn all flags; erase all borders; disband all armies--and save the world for humanity</p>
12/31/19	<p>I do believe in public service as I think it forces people to look outside themselves and their own narrow self-interest; however, I don't believe in war, so I am against mandatory military service.</p>

12/31/19	<p>The Selective Service System should be abolished. Not only is our military highly trained and equipped, it is also extremely successful. The fact that America has not used the draft in nearly fifty years, not to mention not needing to enact it during the war that has been going on in the middle east for the past fifteen years, is a testament to its capability. An all voluntary military is a successful and powerful one. Drafts are supposedly conducted "honorably", when in fact there is nothing honorable about forcing young men, or anyone for that matter, to kill and be killed or face punishment for refusal to do so. On the other hand, our men and women in uniform who chose to lay their lives on the line for the sake of our nation's protection is the definition of honorable. Some believe that ending the Selective Service would put a burden on and be unfair to the members of our military, but it would in fact not be. People being in the armed forces by choice is fair, while forcing them to be is unfair and a burden. Not only to the unfortunate draftees, but to the members of the military as well. The reasons for this being that draftees do not serve of their own free will, therefore their morale is extremely low. Draftees also take much longer to get in shape and properly train. In short, drafts do more harm than good not only for our military but for our nation as well. Not only should the Selective Service System be done away with, more should be done to further improve our military and national security. Such as: using a slightly higher percentage of taxes to enhance our military's technology, weaponry, and medical, strengthening our relationship with our allies, and providing our troops with proper mental health care for PTSD and any other mental side effects from war, and programs to help troops integrate back into civilian life after service. An unfortunate number of former service members end up jobless, homeless, addicted to drugs, and/or committing suicide after returning home and to civilian life. For all or troops do for our protection and our nation as a whole, they deserve so much better. The Selective Service System is also not only extremely flawed, but expensive to maintain, and outdated as well. Voting is an American right, yet women had to protest and go to jail to earn it, men have to sign up for the draft and risk being sacrificed to get their "rights". These basic rights: voting, driver's license, scholarships, ect., should be given to every American without being forced into such obligations. Having free will and making one's own choices is not only what America stands for, but what it was founded on. Countless people choose to fight for America's independence during the Revolutionary war. And countless numbers continue to do so. The advances in technology and weaponry has made the need for sheer manpower obsolete. It's time to make our military truly voluntary, to make these rights truly rights, help our troops. End the draft.</p>
12/31/19	<p>No one should be forced to enter military service. All in every branch are taught to kill. No one should be forced to kill. If the military lacks sufficient personnel, that is a sign the public prefer diplomacy. Is mandatory nonmilitary service advisable? Maybe!</p>
12/31/19	<p>No one should be forced to enter military service. All in every branch are taught to kill. No one should be forced to kill. If the military lacks sufficient personnel, that is a sign the public prefer diplomacy. Is mandatory nonmilitary service advisable? Maybe!</p>
12/31/19	<p>End US draft registration</p>
12/31/19	<p>The Selective Service System should be abolished. Not only is our military highly trained and equipped, it is also extremely successful. The fact that America has not used the draft in nearly fifty years, not to mention not needing to enact it during the war that has been going on in the middle east for the past fifteen years, is a testament to its capability. An all voluntary military is a successful and powerful one. Drafts are supposedly conducted "honorably", when in fact there is nothing honorable about forcing young men, or anyone for that matter, to kill and be killed or face punishment for refusal to do so. On the other hand, our men and women in uniform who chose to lay their lives on the line for the sake of our nation's protection is the definition of honorable. Some believe that ending the Selective Service would put a burden on and be unfair to the members of our military, but it would in fact not be. People being in the armed forces by choice is fair, while forcing them to be is unfair and a burden. Not only to the unfortunate draftees, but to the members of the military as</p>

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12/31/19	<p>I'm leaving a comment about the last 3 items on the form:</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>As a democracy, the military draft goes directly contrary to our ideological system of government. We stand for freedom and independence, not coercive service to unjust leadership. Throughout our history we see US citizens supporting the republic in WW1, WWII without a draft. This makes it clear that the military draft or draft contingency is not only unnecessary, but illegal and immoral.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Because of it's coercive effect, the selective service must be stopped immediately, including the registration process. It deprives US citizens with their right to freedom and independence.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>Mandatory service for all Americans is the most coercive and illegal action the government can take in depriving citizens their independence and freedom. It is unnecessary, without value, and unfeasible.</p>
12/31/19	<p>Our children are not government property!</p>
12/31/19	<p>Hello, I am a Junior in college. I really want to share my opinion and concerns in regards to the mission and possible recommendations of this commission. Back in September, I joined my School's club for the Kiwanis International. In my opinion, the value of service is for the compassion and well being of your</p>

	<p>community. There are many barriers, in my opinion to service. I, for example have several health issues including, autism, asthma, and epilepsy, the latter of which, I know is an obvious roadblock to me serving in the military ever (even though I don't want to and never want to). I am also Transgender, which with the service ban from Trump, is also a barrier. I think another barrier, especially among parents, would be the objection of their child serving, not only that but also the fact that the military is not for everyone. They break you down mentally and emotionally, require hours of exercise until the brink of exhaustion. Finally the most important barrier is that of one's religious conscience. For me, as a Buddhist, I believe that killing or injuring any living being is both wrong and immoral, even if it's the life of an insect. I think that the government could increase participation by maintaining voluntary service, providing relief from preexisting student loan debt, reminding people of the ability to travel (my cousin is in the army and he got to spend two years in Germany and had the ability to visit much of Europe during these two years), and by not targeting only certain communities in recruitment. In regards to the Draft; it has been declared unconstitutional and should be repealed entirely as expanding it to all Americans would be unfeasible as there will still be men and women who won't sign up for it, along with abolishing it, the punishments for noncompliance should be removed including all previous punishments and sanctions issued previously. Finally I find it very concerning and absurd that there is the possibility that this commission would recommend mandatory service. Even though I am actively considering the idea of volunteering with the AmeriCorps, I think that service should remain voluntary. Mandatory service would most likely only target military service and goes against my religious values and those of many others and those like myself who wish to make a difference to their community. Mandatory service violates the constitution as it amounts to involuntary servitude and slavery and could cause people to miss out on much needed college education/apprenticeship. I'm not eager to serve and I will never be "Inspired to serve" I only consider possibly joining the AmeriCorps because I want to be able to help my community and do something that is bigger than myself. There is already a bill in Congress to abolish the Selective Service System. It addresses the concerns that me and others have expressed previously. I honor those serving, and I hope this comment is considered by you as you make your final recommendation".</p>
12/31/19	<p>The draft should either include members of all genders and races, regardless of income. For too long people with money have been able to either buy their way out of the draft, or, find an unscrupulous 'doctor' who generates a false report to get out of the service.</p> <p>If the children of the rich and powerful were required to serve their country there would be less war and other conflicts. The rich and powerful would do anything to keep their children out of active combat areas.</p> <p>There also needs to be alternatives to serve in the Armed Forces. Service to the country should also include volunteer work, such as the Peace Corps or Habitat for Humanity.</p>
12/31/19	<p>The US/CIA wars since the end of WWII defy all logic -- from Vietnam to ... Trump's latest attacks in Middle East. What is this all about except Elite Empire?</p> <p>What is this all about except moving the wealth and natural resources of OTHER nations into the coffers of Elites/Corporations. This is Elite/Patriarchy underpinned by "Christianity."</p> <p>This is corporate/fascism and an over bloated MIC devoted to profit while protect Elite interests all over the world ... which we've known since Brig. General Butler/1935 -- "War Is a Racket!"</p> <p>STOP using young men as fodder for US wars -- if they even survive your destroying their bodies, then you are at the least destroying their minds and their lives/futures.</p> <p>We must question those supporting these fake wars against "terrorism" while the Pentagon and everyone else knows the biggest threat to our nation is Global Warming.</p>

12/31/19	Please help to end mandatory registration for the draft. A civil society should not be forcing anyone to "donate" a year or two of their life to the government. Lots of people voluntarily choose to help out those in need--that's great, as long as the choice is voluntary. Once it becomes mandatory though, then it becomes slavery and the individual's life does not belong to him/her. It's totally unnecessary too, since there was no lack of volunteers after Pearl Harbor and 9/11, when there were direct attacks in this country. Folks don't mind "serving" when there's a direct attack on US soil--they are less keen to "volunteer" for overseas adventures, and for good reason too.
12/31/19	I urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to recommend that Congress enact H.R. 5492, a new bill to end draft registration.
12/31/19	Draft registration serves as an administrative means to raise quickly a number of US citizens to fight in wars, very few of which they've had any part in deciding upon or authorizing. As such, I consider draft registration as well as the raising of armed forces by means of drafts, to violate the human rights of citizens.
12/31/19	I understand the idea of service to one's country and don't disagree with it. But should it be through the military? I feel we need to expand our ideas of how we can truly help in the world and force is not a helpful lens to use. I do not believe in killing other sentient beings and would never join a military, nor do I think anyone should be forced to. If we need a military draft to beef up our fighting forces doesn't that indicate that Americans would prefer not to go to foreign countries and try to control them? Let's reinvigorate the Peace Corps and devalue all this killing.
12/31/19	Happy New Year. Please in your final reports remember that for 40 years the selective service service has been tainted for its sex discrimination, primarily against males. Please, although the political power is with women and their desires, render a just verdict for all the men in Arlington cemetery and on the Vietnam Memorial Wall who were drafted against their will while the other sex had to do nothing but watch them suffer and die. Only ask for equality which women have been marching for the past 40 years. God bless and thanks for the chance to write. Again Happy New Year.
12/31/19	<p>I have not believed in the institution of a draft until recently. I am 51 years old and a veteran, honorably discharged after 4 years of service, of the US Army. I now believe in a draft, in some form, for 2 predominant reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After seeing a generation of 17-25 year old Americans become politically active, a generation that is seems to possess an overwhelming obligation to expound upon their political beliefs to the point of lecturing their elders. I see this generation as the epitome of a class that has done little but knows everything. I believe a term of enlistment would imbue this demographic with a sense of real world experience, camaraderie, national loyalty, responsibility, and a sense of duty. Such a term would also alleviate, to some extent, the burdens carried by hard core combat arms soldiers. 2. Everyone should have skin in the game. I believe that since the draft has been eliminated the rights possessed by our nations youth have not been earned, but rather gifted to them. Such "freebies" are not appreciated, not treasured, and therefore ultimately not valued. Gifts that are not valued tend to fall into disrepair. The gifts of freedom and democratic Republic are too precious to have such a woeful state befall them. <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leland Johnson, CST Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Medical Center Saginaw MI</p>

Recommendations:

1. Include community service as a viable national service option equivalent to military and public service. Many youths (and parents) are not as willing or able to leave home for service learning opportunities in a time of high social anxiety and low social trust. Besides, America's communities make it a great country more than its capital. Community service as an integral part of a national service strategy would go far to address many of America's collective ills - from the bottom up more than the top down. (Re: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/e-pluribus-service-christopher-holshek/>)

2. Consider a national service program as a public-private venture rather than a government program to garner greater corporate support. The knowledge and skill sets (e.g., collaborative problem-solving, leadership and interpersonal skills, etc.) young people can obtain through on-the-job like experience from a mandatory program of community or public/military service are highly valued in the 21st century economy - benefiting employers/employees and young professionals and entrepreneurs. You could argue that, as an overall impact, it improves the competitiveness of the American economy and keeps jobs at home.

3. Service as a rite of citizenship needs substantial emphasis under this program. At the same time, our public educate system needs to return to a balance of preparing our young people to be engaged citizens and not simply better workers. As part of a Federal program to improve public education, in exchange for an increase in federal funds for public schools (and therefore much less reliance on local property taxes to funds schools), require high school students to (1) have performed a minimum number of hours of community service and (2) pass the very same civics test required for naturalizing citizens (this, by the way, would also create space for more empathy between native-born and immigrant Americans). States, of course, could add to the federal minimum community service requirement, for example, for state-run honors graduation requirements.

4. Along similar lines, consider a minimum additional community service requirement for Federal PELL Grants and apply PELL grants to trade and vocation schools. Raise the grant ceiling to, say, \$10-15K, for economically disadvantaged students willing to perform additional, pro-rated service.

5. In response to your question (2) above, consider citing initiatives like the National Service Ride as an example of innovative platforms to turn young people on to service, explain what's in it for them, and hook them up with local service learning opportunities - as the project's model of one-hour seminars at high schools and colleges has shown proof of concept. Download the project briefing at www.nationalserviceride.net for more.

Thank you all for your service!

Best regards,

Christopher J. Holshek

Colonel, U.S. Army Civil Affairs (Ret.)

Founder, The National Service Ride Project

12/31/19

12/31/19	THERE IS A NEED TO FOSTER CREATIVITY IN THE SCHOOLS ALONG WITH THE ARTS WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE THE SAME STATUS AS LITERATURE.....CUT THE MILITARY SPENDING AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF A MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY TO OFFER A WIDER VIEW OF OUR CHALLENGES.
12/31/19	The military draft is an archaic relic of the 20th century. Requiring women to register for selective service will unnecessarily put millions of our daughters' lives at risk at a time when the only military threats to the United States are those that we choose. Selective service should be eliminated for all our children, and requiring our daughters to register is a sickening step backward. This is the United States, and our first priority should be the safety and well being of our children, and requiring them to register to potentially fight wars of choice (To benefit other countries, and lobbyists) is an outrage. Do the right for our sons and daughters!!!
12/31/19	The military draft is an archaic relic of the 20th century. Requiring women to register for selective service will unnecessarily put millions of our daughters' lives at risk at a time when the only military threats to the United States are those that we choose. Selective service should be eliminated for all our children, and requiring our daughters to register is a sickening step backward. This is the United States, and our first priority should be the safety and well being of our children, and requiring them to register to potentially fight wars of choice (To benefit other countries, and lobbyists) is an outrage. Do the right for our sons and daughters!!!
12/31/19	<p>I attempted to enlist in the Army to be a helicopter pilot in September 1963. I failed my physical exam because I am colorblind. I was disappointed but at least I knew to go on with my life without having to worry about being drafted. Early in 1964 I received my draft notice. When I went to the site, I mentioned that they couldn't draft me because I was colorblind. They took me into a dark room, and performed a different test. Minutes later, they congratulated me, and said I was in! Off to Fort Jackson I went. My orders then came down for cook school in Texas. That made sense, because I had been a restaurant manager. Days later, I was notified that I would not be going to cook school. Instead I would be leaving for helicopter training in Fort Rucker!</p> <p>I passed the first maintenance course at the top of my class, and headed for the second course. During that course, it was mentioned to me that I should not try to pass that course because I would then go to the third course, turbine helicopter school, which is what I was looking forward to. The person then told me if I completed the Huey school, I would be sent to Vietnam. I said, "Where is Vietnam?" He responded that there was a war going on there! Too bad! I again graduated at the top of my class, and headed to the west coast to be deployed. Because we had not been in the service for six months, we had to stay on the west coast until we had accumulated six months of service.</p> <p>After landing in Saigon, I was assigned as a crew chief for the helicopter that was used for the Commanding General of HQ/HQ Company, USARV, later changed to US Army Support Command, Vietnam. I ended up flying 672 missions, and earning nine Air Medals. I voluntarily extended in Vietnam so I could return to the states with less than 90 days service remaining, so I would not have a state-side duty station. Unfortunately, about a week before I was supposed to leave Vietnam, I came down with hepatitis A, and was eventually med-evac'd. Not only didn't I get out early, I stayed in the hospital for more than two months, and got out a week later than my original term of service.</p> <p>I finished my six year commitment. Then, after three years, I joined the Air National Guard and was a civil service technician for 15 years. I served for 28 more years, retiring in 2001 as a Chief Master Sergeant. Between the Army and the Air Force, I earned 30 military ribbons, having been deployed numerous times all over the world.</p> <p>Now, here is my point! All that experience helped me to land a job as an Aviation Safety Inspector in the FAA, retiring in 2007, as a GS-14. Just as important, I am still working as a consultant for a company that is certified by the FAA to do certification work. Last November, I went back to Saudi Arabia to inspect the Saudi Air Force C-130s.</p>

	So much for that. I am a member of a VSO that conducts funeral services for veterans, usually around 200 a year. Every chance I get, I tell young folks to join the military. It pays!
12/31/19	fuck!
12/31/19	re H.R. 5492: I am 70 years old and remember the disruption and worse in young men's lives caused by the draft during the Vietnam War. As a woman, I was exempt, but the whole generation was affected. Quakers could choose non-military service and, as a Quaker, I'm grateful for that, but some gave up that privilege to protest the immorality of the war and suffered prison time or exile. I do believe youth should be offered the opportunity to serve but it should be voluntary. As a young Quaker woman, I did a little over three years of voluntary service abroad myself, mostly youth and community work. The key word in that sentence is voluntary, and I was happy to do that service. I hope such service opportunities can be offered to all, but on a strictly voluntary basis.
12/31/19	The US needs to close most of its overseas bases. The simple existence of these causes other countries to intensely dislike the US. If done, less military personnel will be needed, not more. Most importantly, a DEPARTMENT OF PEACE needs to be established and functioning.
12/31/19	Men and Women should be treated equally. Current law on male-only draft registration is unconstitutional. (It was even RULED unconstitutional by a federal court in Texas in 2019, although appeals are still pending. Dragging this out in court is a waste of time and taxpayers money; let's end this now!)
12/31/19	Dear Commission Most people who, like myself, are citizens of countries other than the US, can see clearly that the USA are not a force for good in this world. Since the end of the second World War, the United States military has killed some 20 million people, overthrown at least 36 governments, interfered in at least 82 foreign elections, attempted to assassinate over 50 foreign leaders, and dropped bombs on people in over 30 countries. You can stop this. Your nation spends as much on "defense" as the next ten biggest spending countries combined. Your nation can scale back and spend some of that money on things that will really help make the USA a truly civilised nation, eg. welfare, debt-free college, and Medicare-for-all. Please recommend that Congress sacks its warmongering politicians and enacts HR5492, a Bill to end draft registration. The draft does not decrease the chances or duration of wars, and should not be part of a civilised nation's policy in the modern world. Thank you for considering my comment.
12/31/19	A "mandatory service requirement" for Americans to serve in the military is a form of involuntary servitude (like slavery) and is unconstitutional. It needs to be eliminated.
12/31/19	yes women should have to sign up for the draft. they wanted to do what men do! all us citizens should have to do some type of service, be it military or civil etc. in their lifetime. thanks steve c. usn ret.
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12/31/19	<p>Dear Commission,</p> <p>I enlisted in the US Army to stand for Constitutional rights, including those of religion and conscience. Let's stop violating those and end a money-wasting inefficient and inadequate Selective Service System. I ask you to recommend to Congress that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; 2) All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned to protect rights to freedom of conscience & religion for those currently living under these penalties; 3) National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic republic and free society; 4) IF the draft registration is not ended, provide a check box or mechanism to document Conscientious Objection to combat or military participation to protect rights of freedom of religion and conscience while satisfying requirements and avoiding extra-judicial civil, federal and state penalties. <p>Thad W. Crouch ████████████████████ ████████████████████</p>
12/31/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; 2) All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; 3) National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.
12/31/19	<p>The government should either draft everybody or nobody. There is plenty of service opportunities in the National Guard -- basic training is good for everyone, it mixes all sectors of society. They could read to children in inner cities, fight fires, etc, etc. You don't have to fight a war to serve the country.</p>
12/31/19	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Draft registration has been a failure and a burden on millions of men. Most men violate the law by not registering willfully or timely as the law requires. Most young men today are registered through coercive means that are linked to other actions, such as applying for student financial aid or a driver's license or state ID. If someone fails to register, these and other federal and state programs and services can be taken away, without due process.</p> <p>As an Anabaptist Christian, I believe that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women

	<p>2. All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties</p> <p>3. National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jeff Strong Fairfax, VA</p>
12/31/19	<p>I am against the continuation of the Selective Service registration for several reasons. First, it is unconstitutional because it requires only young men to register but not young women. Second, for people of faith and conscience, it is a violation of our conscience to even register for military service. Third, since we have an all-volunteer military, the registration is an anachronism that needs to be eliminated.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
12/31/19	<p>I believe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Draft registration should be ended for everyone, not extended to women; 2) All criminal, civil, federal and state penalties for failure to register must be ended and overturned for those currently living under these penalties; 3) National service should remain voluntary. Compulsory service, whether civilian or military, is in conflict with the principles of a democratic and free society.
12/31/19	<p>I was chairman of the "Indianapolis Center on Draft & Military Counseling during the early 1970's. Our director, a recent Masters Degree Grad from Ohio University who was released from his ROTC required service when he was granted Conscientious Objector Status, tied poor Colonel Dusty Rhodes, then Indiana State Director for Selective Service, in knots because the young man was so competent in SS regulations & constant updating of those regulations because of court decisions and the political reality of protest against the Vietnam War. Then there was the work of helping those who were given a dishonorable discharge because of their behavior while in uniform in Vietnam.</p> <p>All this to observe that the word "service" has to recover its primary meaning. Otherwise, smart and ambitious and forward looking young Americans are doing to say: Forget "service," such as that the thousands of Americans who lost their life or limbs in Iraq and Afghanistan in my life time.</p> <p>SERVICE, for us Christians, has to exclude training to kill. Once that becomes the AMERICAN understanding, it should be easier for the millennial generation to be patriots, i.e. show their love of Country. Obviously, re-instating a military draft as well as a system of registration has to be out of the question. Once that is done, then Congress can begin writing legislation that will provide OPPORTUNITIES for the young such as an expanded AmeriCorp, but very much expanded so that the young won't be tempted to despair and exit the pain through drugs.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Let the military branches recruit as best they can. If they can't fulfill quotas it's because the young know in their bones there's no future for them nor humanity if so many resources go into war and preparation for war. Then national priorities will begin to address the real threat such as is the Climate Crisis. Pray tell, what military solution is there to that by training to kill? In fact, the Pentagon is one of the world's biggest abusers of fossil fuels. It's a part of the problem, not the solution.</p> <p>More could be said, but let it be at this. Fr. Bernard Survil</p>

12/31/19	RE: Participation in military, national, and public service — highly recommendable as an option, and worthy of consideration as “mandatory.” It’s a GREAT opportunity for an experience outside each person’s (planned or unplanned) future — just ask a contingent of those that have experienced an alternative (to war)/Peace Corps equivalent 24 months, and note the responses
12/31/19	Selective Service is outdated and should be ended.
12/31/19	We need to have a draft wherein everyone needs to serve, no exceptions. This would create fairness and democratize the military and war. The current system has too few doing too much while too many are doing too little.
12/31/19	Spread peace, not war.
12/31/19	End Draft registration for all - including women! A volunteer military works very well. All citizens should have the right to serve, but we don't want there to be a mandatory draft registration. If you have to draft people into war then the war is not something that the people want! Government represents the people and therefore should not force them to do anything that goes against their values and beliefs.
12/31/19	End draft registration all together! If a nation is truly great then it will have volunteers in time of need, and if it isn't great then it doesnt deserve conscripts.
12/31/19	End draft registration for all Americans. Service is noble, but mandatory service violates the values America was founded to uphold.
12/31/19	Re: item 5 The military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security, and it never was. Ultimately the citizens of this nation decide whether a war is worth fighting; if it is, they volunteer. If it is not, no amount of compulsory service will change that. I volunteered. So did my father, father-in-law, oldest son, daughter-in-law, and a brother-in-law. Each of us was happy to serve, and all have argued against the draft, knowing that an all-volunteer military is far superior. Draft registration is anachronistic. The SSS already knows the names and addresses of all young men turning 18, and does not need registration in order to remind them to register, to deny them college benefits, or even to prosecute them for refusing to register. If the government can find young men for those purposes, it could find them to force them into service without the mythical consent of registration.
12/31/19	Compulsory service diminishes respect for the institution and cheapens the service. I ask you to eliminate compulsory registration.
12/31/19	The draft, registration for the draft, and any type of enforced military service is oppose to our bill of rights, and should be permanently abolished. No
12/31/19	End the draft, for liberty’s sake.
12/31/19	Service has inherent value. As Fred Rogers put it, "the meaning of life is service." That said, when "service" is reduced to serving in the armed forces it is reduced to support for the American empire project. For that reason, I oppose continuation of draft registration unless any contemplated selective service requirement includes nonmilitary public service options. Thank you.

	Draft registration is one small step from RE instituting a draft
12/31/19	A draft for men and potentially women is involuntary servitude and really um AMERICAN
12/31/19	The draft is slavery .
12/31/19	I absolutely do not support opening the Selective Service requirements to women. I do not support it for men either. What we are asking our young people, mainly people of brown and black individuals, is a death sentence. War is not the answer to the problems you present. Only love and diplomacy will lead us away from continual war. National Security is important but not in the way that is currently pursued. Draft, whether voluntary or involuntary, has never been an equalizer in our country. I urge your efforts be to pursue peaceful, nonviolent action to end war and violence in our world. That would be more important to bring about a safe and sane world and USA.
12/31/19	<p>The Draft was first denied to Gen. Geo. Washington. It was first put into effect by The Confederacy with the purpose of soliciting volunteering. Followed then by the Union forces. Teddy Roosevelt is said to have been embarrassed that his father bought his way out at his mother's insistence.</p> <p>Fast forward, the Korean conflict, initially the Reserves were called up and found to be ill equipped to handle battle. So the Draft was reinstated and into the Vietnam era. Well here I am. The Reserves and the National Guard were exempt from their obligation.</p> <p>As the length of Vietnam, those who were drafted came back disenchanting. We were treated as failures for allowing ourselves to be drafted, or worse. We came home at the bottom rung of the ladder. The Draft was soon to be ended.</p> <p>I was drafted in the summer of '67, scared as hell, and earned my E-5 stripe 17 months later. I first noticed the inequity after finishing Basic and going to Ft. Polk while half my company went home to their families. When discharged in '69, I was assigned to the inactive Reserves, as there was no room for Veterans who did full time of two years. I went to work at the bottom of the ladder. I told I had no skills after two years military service and competing with those who found a way to stay home. I succeeded in the long run. The service gave me backbone.</p> <p>The Draft helps keep the military honest by universal service. The Draft educates and matures individuals. The Draft should be the only access to the Reserves and National Guard! If you don't want to be Drafted, then enlist and get the MOS you want in the branch you want.</p> <p>By the way, I had enough physical glitches to be a firm 1Y at best to avoid being drafted. As for all the questions proposed above the answer is YES, and should be done in public forum. I plan to offer that up to my various Vet's groups. As for #3, there are only perceived barriers and, would be eliminated by universal service.</p> <p>Once again, it's a more than scary world out there today. The next war will be the last one. We need a unified presence, supported and involved by the whole country.</p>
12/31/19	I urge you to drop registration for the draft. We cannot police the world, and we should not be sending our soldiers to over 100 countries, as we do now. Thus, if we require fewer soldiers, we do not need the draft.
12/31/19	<p>'Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?'</p> <p>It has social utility. Well, that is the idea, anyway. The idea that social utility should be extracted from Americans by force strikes me as perverse.</p>

	<p>‘How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?’</p> <p>The federal government could start by ‘first doing no harm’ in the one area where it intersects with young people the most: education. The government has basically ruined schooling while saying it helped.</p> <p>Also. politicians and bureaucrats and military men could stop lying to them.</p> <p>‘What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?’</p> <p>IQ. The military won’t accept people with low IQ.</p> <p>Money. The government gets its wealth from the limited resources of its citizens.</p> <p>Credibility. The federal government is not credible on matters of ‘defense.’</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>Pay more and stop lying and halt idiotic, unwinnable foreign wars.</p> <p>‘Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?’</p> <p>Obviously not.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible</p>
12/31/19	<p>National service, both in peace and in military, is very important . I have served on draft boards for almost 18 years and know that COs will receive much more honorable consideration today than in decades past .</p> <p>However I support closing the Selective Service because the most common way that opposition to war is expressed is by not registering and thereby incurring severe penalties .</p> <p>We need a better way for COs to identify themselves and to serve .</p>
12/31/19	<p>I am the mother of a 17 year old male who will be 18 next month, I do not believe young people should be forced to serve in the military.</p>

	<p>I believe that the draft registration should be ended for EVERYONE and should not be extended to include women.</p> <p>I also believe that failure to register should not result in penalties of any kind (criminal, civil, federal, or state). This practice must be ended and overturned for those already affected.</p> <p>Finally, military service to our country should remain voluntary because otherwise it is in conflict with principles of a free and democratic society.</p> <p>I write as an attendee of a Texas Quaker Meetinghouse (Austin Friends) and as an active member of their Peace and Social Concerns committee. My son is also involved at the meeting house and is in agreement with these religious and democratic principles.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.</p> <p>Claire Reutter Austin, Texas</p>
12/31/19	<p>Throughout this year I attended several public meetings of the Commission and had personal interaction with various Commission members and staff at those meetings and via phone and email. I was also present at the meeting of CASP in OH that Mr. Barney attended. At the close of this comment period I again want to express my appreciation for the energy given by this Commission to consider the interests of those of us who have a conscientious objection to participation in war. While the current climate in Congress seems to give cause for concern about final legislation, my perception of the work of this Commission is that it has been an example of republican/democratic government at its best in its work to give everyone an opportunity to speak and a fair hearing. My thanks to all Commission members and staff for investing in this important work. I am committed to be in prayer for you over the next several months as you prepare your report for Congress.</p> <p>Tim Miller Beachy Amish Mennonite Conservative Anabaptist Service Program</p>
1/1/2020	<p>End the draft registration for everyone!!!</p>
1/1/2020	<p>I am sending comments as chapter president and on behalf of the members of Veterans For Peace, Chapter 132, Corvallis, Oregon.</p> <p>Our members ask that the Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Recommend Congress pass H.R. 5492, the bill introduced in December 2019 to end draft registration, (2) Recommend the complete termination of Selective Service registration, and NOT to extend it to women, (3) Recommend the repeal of federal penalties for non-registration with the Selective Service System and recommend the preemption of state sanctions for non-registration, and (4) Recommend federal decision makers NOT enact any compulsory "national service" requirement. <p>Thank you for considering our recommendations.</p>

	<p>R.B. 'Bart' Bolger, Commander, U.S. Navy, retired Veterans For Peace, Linus Pauling Chapter 132, Corvallis</p>
<p>1/1/2020</p>	<p>National Disservice (Feb 26, 2019)</p> <p>Common Sense focused on the draft, last week, specifically the idea of “national service,” too often portrayed as a wonderful enriching experience.</p> <p>My midweek commentaries “Old Codger Draft,” “The Opposite of Freedom,” and “Green New Conscript?” pinpointed the plethora of problems with enslaving folks.</p> <p>On Thursday, I traveled with two threatened members of that now vulnerable population known as “young people” to a public hearing at American University. There I testified for three-and-a-half minutes of the two allotted to me by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. I implored them to “forswear any forced service whatsoever.”*</p> <p>“That shouldn’t happen,” I said, “in America.”</p> <p>Then, late Friday, a federal judge ruled that the Selective Service System’s male-only draft registration program is unconstitutional. Since all combat positions are now open to women, a draft registration program excluding women violates the equal protection rights of men. The lawsuit brought by the National Coalition for Men doesn’t ask that registration be extended to women, only ended in its current discriminatory form.</p> <p>The judge, however, did not issue an injunction, and there will be an appeal.</p> <p>“This ruling is going to force the government eventually,” the group’s attorney told the Washington Post, “to either get rid of the selective service requirement or require both sexes to register.”</p> <p>Between now and the 2020 election, the issue of conscription — for men and for women, for war or for street sweeping — will be before the Congress, the President and candidates for those positions.</p> <p>Let’s ask them: Whose life is it?</p> <p>This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.</p> <p>http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/02/26/national-disservice/</p>
<p>1/1/2020</p>	<p>End the draft.</p>

Youth Service America (YSA) believes that young people, communities, and democracy all thrive when we work together for the Common Good. As a 33 year old nonprofit organization, we activate children and youth, ages 5-25, to find their voice take action, and have impact on the problems facing their community and the planet. Through youth service, young people gain unique skills to be successful in school, work, and life.

YSA measures our results in two ways, through 1. Impact on Youth Skills (Critical Thinking; Creativity; Collaboration; Communication; and Empathy); 2. Impact on Community (The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals to reduce poverty and make the planet fair and sustainable).

YSA recommends that the Commission call for opportunities for all Americans to contribute in childhood (K-Higher Ed), recognizing that what we do when we are young, we do the rest of our lives. Starting early, as with reading, music, sports, and good manners, makes a powerful difference. If we expect service to be the common expectation and common experience of all young people, we cannot wait until they turn 18. We must start in elementary school. Finally, too often youth are viewed only as future leaders and "the hope of tomorrow", dismissing their relevance and relieving them of important opportunities to contribute and be leaders of today. As we all remember, no kid wants to be dismissed!

YSA recommends five strategies for the Commission's Final Report:

1. Support and Promote National Days of Service (MLK Day, Global Youth Service Day; International Youth Day; 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance; International Volunteer Day; National Holidays; etc.) to build unity and as on-ramps for youth to practice being assets and contributors to their communities. Expand mini-grants, prizes, specific themes, and popular culture.
2. Champion the pedagogy in schools of education for Service-Learning (aka problem-based learning and deeper learning) across the K-12 curriculum nationwide.
3. Expand teacher training and student participation in a Semester of Service of both intensity and duration: <http://YSA.org/Semester>
4. Support YSA's "moonshot" call for a national expansion of youth service participants from 30% today to 50% by the 250th Birthday of United States on July 4, 2026.
5. Strengthen the links between action civics and civic education (especially volunteering, advocacy, philanthropy, and voting). Encourage young people to see the connections between the local issues they care about and the local, state, and national institutions that support and influence them.

Steven A. Culbertson
President and CEO
Youth Service America

1/1/2020

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There's a Word for It
***** (March 15, 2019)

The word is “effrontery.”

With shameless boldness, two gentlemen testifying for mandatory “National Service” at a recent hearing of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service pitched the notion that social dysfunction and directionlessness among the young could be best solved by forcing them to work for government for a year.

I indicated the effrontery — the maximum chutzpah — in a video last weekend. But it is more than “just” the case that forcing labor on people in a free society is a whopping internal contradiction — we can only be free if we are unfree, and we should push servitude for freedom’s sake? It is also astoundingly presumptuous.

Consider the context.

The rap about the young is that they inhabit a gimme-gimme culture, always taking, never giving back. But when was the last time the two parties in Congress took a stand on a difficult issue that required doing something inconvenient, like saying no to their own constituencies? When did they decide not to spend to please their various political interests because going further into debt was perilous for the entire nation?

Spending other people’s money is easy, the ultimate “gimme.”

Meanwhile, Congress bogs down in pointless partisan “investigations,” idiotic virtue signaling, and defense of their own wayward members.

It is absurd to suggest that experts in Washington, D.C., could “fix” a generation of young people, since official Washington is far more dysfunctional than the citizens they think they can remold in their craven image.

Effrontery, indeed.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

1/1/2020

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/03/15/theres-a-word-for-it/>

1/1/2020	<p>There's a Word for It ***** (March 15, 2019)</p> <p>The word is "effrontery."</p> <p>With shameless boldness, two gentlemen testifying for mandatory "National Service" at a recent hearing of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service pitched the notion that social dysfunction and directionlessness among the young could be best solved by forcing them to work for government for a year.</p> <p>I indicated the effrontery — the maximum chutzpah — in a video last weekend. But it is more than "just" the case that forcing labor on people in a free society is a whopping internal contradiction — we can only be free if we are unfree, and we should push servitude for freedom's sake? It is also astoundingly presumptuous.</p> <p>Consider the context.</p> <p>The rap about the young is that they inhabit a gimme-gimme culture, always taking, never giving back. But when was the last time the two parties in Congress took a stand on a difficult issue that required doing something inconvenient, like saying no to their own constituencies? When did they decide not to spend to please their various political interests because going further into debt was perilous for the entire nation?</p> <p>Spending other people's money is easy, the ultimate "gimme."</p> <p>Meanwhile, Congress bogs down in pointless partisan "investigations," idiotic virtue signaling, and defense of their own wayward members.</p> <p>It is absurd to suggest that experts in Washington, D.C., could "fix" a generation of young people, since official Washington is far more dysfunctional than the citizens they think they can remold in their craven image.</p> <p>Effrontery, indeed.</p> <p>This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.</p> <p>http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/03/15/theres-a-word-for-it/</p>
1/1/2020	<p>Big Issue 2020 ***** (April 17, 2019)</p>

“National service will hopefully become one of the themes of the 2020 campaign,” said Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Democratic Party presidential candidate.

Why?

Talking to MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow, Mayor Buttigieg explained: “we really want to talk about the threat to social cohesion that helps characterize this presidency, but also just this era.”

Oh, goodie, another threat from which the wannabe wizards of Washington can save us.

“One thing we could do that would help change that,” announced Buttigieg, “would be to make it, if not legally obligatory, then certainly a social norm that anybody after they’re 18 spends a year in national service.”

What does he mean by “if not legally obligatory”? Perhaps it is nothing more than this: he is considering a program of forced service, but wants plausible deniability, a way to back off in the heat of an election campaign . . . when moms and dads are voting.

Buttigieg wants “the first question on your college application” or “the first question when you’re being interviewed for a job” to be whether a young person did national service.

Hey, I want a lot of things. Does a President Buttigieg plan to force all colleges and employers to ask his question first?

What seems obvious to citizens seems lost on politicians, the rather clear difference between offering jobs to the nation’s 4 million 18-year-olds and dragging them away from their lives to make them work for Washington.

Host Maddow, for her part, supports a draft, but expresses doubts about its feasibility, noting “we seem wired as a country to reject that at every level.”

She is correct: Land of the free, home of the brave and all.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/04/17/big-issue-2020/>

No Need

***** (April 25, 2019)

1/1/2020

“So, my bottom line is there is no need to continue to register people for a draft that will not come; no need to fight the battle over registering women, and no military need to retain the MSSA.”

The MSSA is the Military Selective Service Act. It authorizes the Selective Service System (SSS) to register young men for a possible draft and, should conscription resume, manage that process. The law allows the government to imprison those who do not register.* I know, I violated the Act 38 years ago by refusing to sign my name on a draft registration form.

But the quoted statement, above, wasn't mine. No sirree. That was testimony from Dr. Bernard Rostker, the director of Selective Service back in 1980, when President Carter re-instituted mandatory registration.

Rostker made two cogent points at yesterday's National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service hearing:

* First, the modern military neither needs nor wants a massive manpower infusion, which would only dilute the quality of the All-Volunteer Force.

* Second, the list of young men registered with SSS is woefully inadequate, “systematically lack[ing] large segments of the eligible male population and for those that are included, the currency of information contained is questionable.”

Come some future emergency, the former director contends that a draft could be instituted just as quickly without this ongoing registration program. Sure, but that misses the bigger picture: This country has never needed conscription to raise an army. Americans — from Pearl Harbor to 911 — have always stepped up voluntarily.

Mr. Rostker advises “suspending draft registration.”

He took the words right out of my mouth — though I prefer “abolish.”

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* The maximum penalty is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, but no one has been prosecuted for decades. Most of the enforcement effort comes in denying driver's licenses, college loans and government jobs to men who don't register. Commission Chairman Joe Heck explained at yesterday's hearing that 75 percent of registrants do so in order to complete a license or college application.

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/04/25/startling-admissions-2/>

1/1/2020

Hypothetical Cowardice?
***** (April 30, 2019)

We must treat real threats realistically.

But what to do with bizarrely hypothetical ones?

Last week, former Congressman Joe Heck (R-Nev.), chairman of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service, addressed witnesses at a hearing in Washington: “So I want to pose a hypothetical scenario and ask your response.”

“We are in the Red Dawn scenario being attacked from both Canada and Mexico,” he related. “There is no Selective Service System. The All Volunteer Force is insufficient. There’s been a presidential and congressional call for volunteers, for people to step up. However, the response has not been enough to meet the threat, the actual threat to our homeland.”

“How would you propose to meet the demand?” inquired the chairman.

Seriously? We must prepare for military conscription because of the likelihood that Canada and Mexico will launch a joint invasion?

Leaving one ridiculous supposition, during the public comment period, I confronted the other: hypothetical American cowardice.

“This is really all about trust,” I told the commission.

“Do you trust the American people to step up in times of crisis — from Pearl Harbor to 9/11 — or do you not? I submit that all evidence points to the fact that they will, because they have.

“Or should we trust Congress with the awesome power to take our sons and daughters away because they choose to, because there’s a ‘big emergency’ or maybe just because we figure it will help with ‘social cohesion’? I submit that all evidence points to the fact that we cannot trust Congress.”

I urged commissioners “to tell Congress: trust the American people — end draft registration, don’t extend it to women, and do not force any sort of national service.”

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/04/30/hypothetical-cowardice/>

1/1/2020

Of Honor and Horror
***** (May 27, 2019)

Last week, when the public relations wing of the U.S. Army asked, on Twitter, “how has serving impacted you?” the bulk of the responses were not what was hoped for. What came like tear drops and bursts of rage were thousands of horrific tales, expressions of sorrow, bitterness and despair.

No doubt the intention was to elicit, if not patriotic uplift, at least stories of learning, moral growth, centeredness, and personal victory out of sacrifice and suffering. Almost certainly the Army wanted what the promoters of “national service” now want.

The outcome was far messier.

Now, the Army handled the Twitterflak very well, with a tweet thanking people for their expressions. But a response by Mike Schmidt (@MikeSchmidt69) was probably as upbeat as could be expected, given the ‘writing on the wall’ — er, Twitterfeed: “Some say this thread back-fired but this is just the thread that is needed each [M]emorial [D]ay so we remember the sacrifices military members and their families make and how we as a country need to understand the true cost of service and improve our support.”

Most of the tweets I read were decidedly not upbeat. The anger and pain over battle deaths, wounds, PTSD, mental illness, suicides, and so much indifference to it — it was deep and wide . . . and heartbreaking.

‘War is hell.’ In self-defense — defense of These United States — the brave soldier and general is honorable. But that honor is informed by the reticence that comes from actual knowledge of its true costs.

Maybe this Memorial Day President Trump and all policy makers will finally get what service truly is . . . and stop pitching more of the same unjustifiable-because-unwinnable or -unendable interventions around the world.

Of course, demanding peace and sanity and accountability is up to all of us holding the hot dogs.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/05/27/honor-and-horror/>

No Exceptions
***** (July 31, 2019)

“It’s time to bring the country together,” says Rep. John Delaney (D-Maryland), aspiring to be our next commander-in-chief, “restore our sense of shared purpose and a common and inclusive national destiny.”

1/1/2020

How?

Forcibly: “John Delaney’s Plan for National Service” states that “Every American will complete a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years of mandatory national service when they graduate high school, or turn 18.”

Delaney joins other glassy-eyed statisticians in hallucinating that “mandating national service” will “build a future where young people begin their adult lives serving their country and working alongside people from different backgrounds.”

That is, he explains, “Where people . . . who grew up in the suburbs, in farm towns, in coal country, in urban communities get to know each other, get to learn from each other, and get to see firsthand that we still have a lot in common.”

Except that young people won’t “get to,” they’ll “have to.”

As a Delaney news release emphatically emphasizes about his forced national conscription: “No exceptions.”

If you’re a LeBron James type NBA prospect, forget that multi-million dollar contract for a year or two. You have streets to sweep.

If you’re pregnant? Have a terminal disease? This time isn’t yours but the government’s.

And why is it always young people who “get to” be shanghaied?

Never the politicians.

No matter how many fifty-something politicians such as Delaney find their fellow middle-aged cohort to be disunited and non-cohesive, no one ever suggests that his own age group — that he himself — be enslaved into government service.

For their own good, of course.

And the nation’s destiny.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/07/31/no-exceptions/>

Rich Kids for Ransom
***** (Oct 31, 2019)

Elliot Ackerman wants peace so badly that he is willing to conscript our sons and daughters into the military in hopes of achieving it.

“From Somalia to Syria, American forces are engaged in combat,” the author and decorated Marine veteran writes in Time. “With recent military posturing against Iran, against North Korea, it is also easy to imagine our country sleepwalking into another major theater war.”

Mr. Ackerman is not arguing the draft would help in current or future combat operations, or appreciably improve the military. In answer to the obvious question, “Why would you degrade the finest fighting machine the world has ever known?” he replies, “[W]e must move the issues of war and peace from the periphery of our national discourse to its center.”

How?

Ackerman proposes a “reverse-engineered draft.”

His idea is to call up 65,000 young men and women by lottery for two-year terms of servitude. This would represent roughly 5 percent of the armed forces. “And no one could skip this draft,” he claims . . . though obviously not everyone sent a “Greetings” letter will be physically able to serve.

Lastly, he insists that “the only ones eligible” would be “those whose families fall into the top income tax bracket.”

In short, conscript the rich kids!

Of which Ackerman was one.*

Maybe his stance of theatrical class self-sacrifice distracted him from his proposal’s blatant violation of the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause.

All this to stir up more angst from allegedly influential high-income earners by turning their children into political hostages.

Doesn’t make Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* In the 1990s, I served with Peter Ackerman, Elliot’s father, on the board of directors of U.S. Term Limits.

1/1/2020

<http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/10/31/rich-kids-for-ransom/>

Attendant Loss of Life

***** (Nov 1, 2019)

Is there an easy way to avoid the insanity of what author and decorated Marine vet Elliot Ackerman calls America's "two-decade military quagmire"?

Yesterday, I took issue with Ackerman's idea of a "reverse-engineered draft," whereby each year about 65,000 young men and women — but only those with parents in the highest federal tax bracket* — would be forced into the military for two years of "service."

"A draft places militarism on a leash," he argues. But in reality, select young people lose their freedom and politicians don't relinquish any powers.

Still, Ackerman maintains that

"with a draft the barrier to entering new wars would be significantly higher"

placing these "kids" in jeopardy via military conscription would activate their wealthy and influential parents to lobby Congress and the White House

"could create greater accountability"

ultimately resulting in a saner military posture around the globe, hopefully allowing us to "avoid . . . a major theater war, the continuance of our 'terror wars,' the attendant loss of life."

Threatening to draft their kids would raise the eyebrows of parents. That's why when Congress last voted on legislation mandating a draft, even the bill's author voted NO.

But would having a small drafted force somehow actually save lives?

Let's look at combat deaths when the United States used a military draft, post-World War II, and compare that to the time-period since 1973, when the draft ended and the All-Volunteer Force began. Those numbers are not close:

* Between 1946 and 1973, with the draft in place, nearly 100,000 American soldiers were killed overseas.

* Over the more than four decades since the draft ended, fatalities remain under 10,000.

That's a heap-big correlation between the military draft and "attendant loss of life."

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

1/1/2020

	<p>* As I noted yesterday, targeting the draft to apply only to top income earners clearly violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution.</p> <p>http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/11/01/warlottery/</p>
1/1/2020	<p>The Draft Goes Hollywood? ***** (Nov 25, 2019)</p> <p>“Whether you’re able to recall the last military draft or not, if you watch the show This Is Us, then you may have some familiarity,” says a column at Medium.com apparently authored by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.</p> <p>The commission was set up by Congress to explore the idea of extending draft registration to young women, as a federal judge has ruled, or ending it altogether, as should be done — or even go all the way to impose a one- or two-year compulsory national service requirement for every young high school grad.</p> <p>According to the piece, headlined, “This Is Us and the Military Draft,” the “one thing” the commission, the military draft, and the October 21, 2019 episode of this NBC television program, “Nicky’s Number Is Called,” have “in common” is “the Selective Service System.”</p> <p>Today, the agency threatens young men to register, keeping, at great expense, a badly out-of-date registration list that could be used to conscript those young men into the military. Back in 1970, Selective Service held a draft lottery live on TV whereby young men whose birthdates were picked first got involuntarily shipped off to Vietnam.</p> <p>A This Is Us 1970 flashback “gives us a glimpse of what that was like in one powerful scene.” Two brothers are at a bar waiting to learn their fate. The commission explains that one brother “is adamant that his birthday will be called.” Drinking heavily, he is more terrified than “adamant.”</p> <p>His birthdate is picked fifth out of 365 — making it a certainty he will be drafted. Immediately, his brother comforts him with, “We’ll get you to Canada.”</p> <p>Is the commission signaling its support for my position?</p> <p>The draft is unconstitutional, unjust and unnecessary.</p> <p>This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.</p> <p>http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/11/25/the-draft-goes-hollywood/</p>
1/1/2020	<p>1. Yes, the service has value; one such value is love and appreciation for this country</p> <p>2. First, the US needs to stop the propaganda that is occurring in our school systems that is informing the kids to hate this country; that needs to stop</p>

	<p>3. The Commanders in the service need to live by the values in their respective branch</p> <p>4. People gather around a common cause and if the people demonstrate pride in what they are doing; demonstrate a standard and the people will come</p> <p>5. yes and make it for women as well</p> <p>6. yes and make it for women as well</p> <p>7. all Americans from 18-20 need to serve in the military for 2 years just like the state of Israel requires. The kids on drugs need to serve as well.</p>
1/1/2020	<p>> Terrible Twisted Tweet (Part 1)</p> <p>Close your eyes and imagine a young American. Got a picture in your mind? Does the youngster have his or her hands cuffed behind his or her back? No? Well, clearly, you're not the Selective Service System (SSS). "When the threat of force is your first argument that somebody should do something," James Leroy Wilson wrote at Medium.com, "you have no other." Wilson added, "And there is no reason for Selective Service to exist, as exemplified by" the agency's "threatening, bullying" (and since deleted) tweet: Some people don't want to register because they think 'laws and government suck.' But truth be told, failure to register is punishable by a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment up to 5 years. Also, failure to register results in a lifetime of denied benefits. #MythBusters And what a compelling picture of coercion! Is that supposed to be your kid? Let's start with some myth-busting of Selective Service's so-called #MythBusting. For all their threats of imprisoning young men who don't register, no one has been prosecuted in over 30 years. I know because I remember those handcuffs quite well. Exactly 35 years ago today, three FBI agents arrested me at my home in North Little Rock, Arkansas, for my unwillingness to present myself and submit to signing a draft registration card. My reasons — like those of only 13 others convicted of disobeying this unconstitutional demand — were more clearly articulated than the SSS tweet suggests: namely, a respect for the higher law of the Thirteenth Amendment and basic human rights, a desire to inform my government that I wouldn't fight an unjust war, and an understanding that conscription was the way unfree countries fill their armies — anathema to the values that make America worth defending. (continued)</p>
1/1/2020	<p>(continued)</p> <p>>> Terrible Twisted Tweet (Part 2)</p> <p>Today, non-registration continues to be massive. Admittedly, only half of young men in urban Washington, DC, and barely 60 percent in more rural North Dakota have complied with draft registration. Moreover, most registrations are now passive, meaning men are registered while getting a driver's license or applying for student aid — often without their knowledge. Not exactly oozing with patriotism.</p>

	<p>Last year, the agency did send over 110,000 names to the Justice Department for prosecution, but there were no prosecutions . . . which would spark public opposition to the program.</p> <p>For now, draft registration continues even though former Selective Service Director Bernard Rostker contends, “My bottom line is there is no need to continue to register people for a draft that will not come; no need to fight the battle over registering women, and no military need to retain the [Military Selective Service Act].”</p> <p>But Congress has empaneled the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service to investigate and provide a report: (1) whether to extend draft registration to women, in keeping with a federal court ruling, or to end the registration program altogether, as it should; and (2) whether there should be a compulsory military draft or civilian national service program.</p> <p>I believe the draft violates individual freedom and makes our country less safe. We shouldn’t force young women to register or be drafted into combat along with men; we should end this conscription program for everyone.</p> <p>I fought the draft 35 years ago when it was about me. I plan to double-down now that it is about my kids. And grandkids. And yours.</p> <p>What say you? Please go tell the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service to listen to your Common Sense today.</p> <p>Thank you. I’m Paul Jacob.</p> <p>http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/12/06/terrible-twisted-tweet/</p>
1/1/2020	Service should be entirely voluntary. A free people should not be forced to register for conscription.
1/1/2020	There is no reason for free people to be subject to draft, registration for draft is an embarrassment. We are a nation founded by patriots that stood against such tyranny.
1/1/2020	<p>It is my greatest hope that Selective Service registration for men will be ended in 2020. I also obviously hope that registration for the draft will not be extended to women. Besides the fact that mandatory service is un-American, the tracking and enforcement of draft registration is expensive. The budget for Selective Service itself is over \$25 million per year--that's over one billion dollars spent over the last 40 years. I believe this is wasted money. Not only wasteful but dangerous because it might make some people believe that they are doing their part by simply registering, that they would only serve when there is a national emergency, at which point the draft will find them, instead of looking for ways to serve now. In short, the Selective Service System is an expensive placebo and I think it should be abolished as soon as possible.</p>
	<p>I am the mother of a 17 year old male who will be 18 next month, I do not believe young people should be forced to serve in the military.</p> <p>I believe that the draft registration should be ended for EVERYONE and should not be extended to include women.</p> <p>I also believe that failure to register should not result in penalties of any kind (criminal, civil, federal, or state). This practice must be ended and overturned for those already affected.</p> <p>Finally, military service to our country should remain voluntary because otherwise it is in conflict with principles of a free and democratic society.</p>
1/1/2020	I write as an attendee of a Texas Quaker Meetinghouse (Austin Friends) and as an active member of their Peace and Social Concerns committee. My son is also involved at the meeting house and is in agreement with these religious and democratic principles.

	<p>Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.</p> <p>Claire Reutter Austin, Texas</p>
1/1/2020	<p>Serving your fellow man is a very valuable thing. But forcing someone to "serve" is not really service - it is more akin to slavery. Not only is the draft no longer necessary because we have a volunteer army, drafting, i.e. coercing, someone to go participate in a war and potentially kill other humans is immoral. We should end the selective service system entirely. No registration for men or women. No draft for men or women. That would be more much in keeping with our motto of being the home of the free. - Anne Calzone</p>