



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date	Text of Response
6/2/19	Hello. Mr. Heck since the Nation will never draft women please get rid of the selective service entirely. At least for once it would give men a break.
6/3/19	<p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>I believe that such service is valuable only if the draftee is given the option to choose between military and non-military kinds of service and training. Compulsory military service is wrong on several counts, not least because it infringes upon matters of conscience. Public service is valuable if and when it is carried out in harmony with the server's conscience. Such freedom of conscience should be granted both to religious believers and non-believers. It should be seen as a human right. Otherwise the service requirement becomes involuntary servitude rather than an expression of one's civic duty.</p> <p>Tom F. Driver The Paul J. Tillich Professor of Theology and Culture Emeritus Union Theological Seminary</p>
6/3/19	Hello, i think that i saw you visited my site so i came to return the favor.I am trying to find things to enhance my web site!! suppose its ok to use some of your ideas!! agebdeeddfg
6/3/19	Hello! This is my first comment here so I just wanted to give a quick shout out and tell you I really enjoy gbebkakeebdb
6/5/19	<p>I have two boys, 7 and 10. Military thought leaders indicated at the recent CPAC conference that if China's aggressive global ambitions cannot be curtailed, it is likely that the US and China will be involved in a shooting war in the next 10 years. If this is true, China will represent an existential threat to the United States rather than present a mere military adventure in a far off hemisphere. Conscription will surely be an option if not an inevitability.</p> <p>In those unfavorable conditions, I guess it would have paid to have daughters instead of sons. Where are the lean-in advocates for gender neutral selective service? Silent, just as they are when anyone suggests men inordinately occupy the most physically demanding, most dangerous jobs in the United States. The Sheryl Sandbergs of the world want more women CEOs not construction workers and draftees.</p>
6/5/19	<p>I have two boys, 7 and 10. Military thought leaders indicated at the recent CPAC conference that if China's aggressive global ambitions cannot be curtailed, it is likely that the US and China will be involved in a shooting war in the next 10 years. If this is true, China will represent an existential threat to the United States rather than present a mere military adventure in a far off hemisphere. Conscription will surely be an option if not an inevitability.</p> <p>In those unfavorable conditions, I guess it would have paid to have daughters instead of sons. Where are the lean-in advocates for gender neutral selective service? Silent, just as they are when anyone suggests men inordinately occupy the most physically demanding, most dangerous jobs in the United States. The Sheryl Sandbergs of the world want more women CEOs not construction workers and draftees.</p>

6/5/19	<p>SUBJECT: PROTECT PEOPLE; Evaluate civil/human rights enforcement, root causes of social ills. Prosecute/eliminate Public Private Partnership (PPP), and “ROBBERISM= Official misconduct-government gang-MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS” operation.</p> <p>Public Comment/Complaint; (Public hearing, Military Service Hearing: Creating New Pipelines to Service and Fostering Critical Skills (Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (EDT))</p> <p>Comment/complainant: LIH YOUNG, Ph. D. economist; reformer, advocate, activist, candidate for public offices since 1994; local- federal; Md state Comptroller,Senate; Rockville Mayor; U.S. Senate, Congress. The most urgent serious problems here and overseas: “ROBBERISM= Official misconduct-government gang-MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS operation” = bad guy propaganda to benefit/ promote themselves; victimize others; with endless immoral/unlawful acts; destroy freedom, fairness, democracy; continuing, on-going; expanding; penetrate every segment of our lives; inc. civic non-profit, NGO, churches, “think tanks”, educational institutions; women, minorities; nonsense studies, proposals, block grants, etc.</p> <p>Recently, PPP (P3), Public Private Partnership, have been propagandized like a new fashion; without addressing the important issues as to why ppp’s are methodically necessary, and no serious cost-benefit analyses. PPP’s have been related to serious abuses of power/resources, causing serious social issues; not just limit to a single project; but expand everywhere; local-federal-global; no separation of government and private; not even traditional business sense; in terms of input, output or profit; misuse concepts, e.g., eminence domain, “paper road”, government power/budget/bond/deficit/ taxpayers’ burden/resource; practically 100 percent input are paid by government/taxpapers; but output is 100 percent to private owner(s). No affordable housing as promised. On the contrary, more residents/renters are unjustly evicted/robbed. Examples: city town center project in Rockville, Maryland, National Academies of Science, Engineering, Medicine, and many government agencies. Please read carefully below with folder and attachments (17); very condense; serious story behind every word.</p> <p>TOP PRIORITIES: WORK TO BE DONE; SOCIAL JUSTICE IN GREAT DANGER!</p> <p>(I). Prosecute, eliminate “ROBBERISM=Official misconduct- government gang-MURDER- fraud- crime- injustice networks” operation = cruel tyranny= robbery machine; relaying, penetrating every segment of our lives; with threat, coercion, victimization, deprivation, discrimination; unjust practices, manipulation, influence; improper processing of complaints, procedures, proceedings, records, requests; bad legislative bills; unjust hidden agenda; false/ misleading excuses; divert resources for private gains; inc. private-public partnership, econ development, housing, school, transportation, abandonment of properties, paper roads. See emailed folder w/17 attachments.</p>
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Public Comment/Complaint; (Public hearing, Military Service Hearing: Increasing Awareness, Young Americans; Lessening the Civil-Military Divide (Thursday, May 16, 2019, 1- 4 PM (EDT))

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TOP PRIORITIES: WORK TO BE DONE; SOCIAL JUSTICE IN GREAT DANGER!

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6/6/19	<p>Everybody know the nation among the developed nations that struggle with obesity and chronic illnesses. The nation can ensure that young people understand the importance of attaining the GI bill which comes from service in the military. The phenomenon can see young people get their tuition fees waived regardless of the institutions in which they learn. The moment young people realize the importance of such privileges; they are bound to join the army.</p>
6/6/19	<p>Service does hold an inherent value in that every person (this includes both males and females) understand service is a cornerstone to the American people and our values.</p> <p>The military draft contingency is necessary in this day and age with modifications to the readiness time and the persons that must be included. Many combat roles are not face to face/ hand to hand combat (drone pilots, almost every navy and air force position that involves combat does not specifically relate to the number of push ups a person can perform.</p> <p>Women should be included, if not for an equality concern, then that the for the roles they can perform in combat is at par with men. I serviced in the U.S. Army, and if a draft were to be enacted, there are MANY more women in a deployment /combat ready capacity than me. Why should women be exempt from duty? They have the right to vote to go war and put others in harms way, then they should have the obligation to undertake all that goes with it too.</p>

6/7/19	Re: mandatory service. Such a requirement amounts to indentured servitude, to slavery, except for military service clearly required in defense of a threatened society. Draftees under such a situation should be selected on the specific needs (knowledges, skills, abilities) that must be met. General fairness, proportionality, or representativeness are not appropriate first order considerations.
6/8/19	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>We beg you to remember that across our nation are still Bible Christian people who have trained our children according to our Biblical Christian faith with regard to women in the home. We believe that building strong Christian traditional homes is in itself a great service to the well-being of our nation. We will not allow our single daughters to be removed from our homes for national or public service by government mandate. Nor will we allow our young mothers with children to be removed from their children and home by government mandate, even if it is for some "service" that is local to their homes. The point is that we believe that the daily work of building strong homes is more vital to the safety, security, social, and spiritual welfare of the United States than any form of public service that can be devised outside of the home.</p> <p>There are millions of Bible Christians of many affiliations that will resist government mandated public, national, or military service for their single daughters and young wives and mothers.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Rev. Robert E. Patenaude, Th.D.  ██████████  Campbellsburg, Indiana ██████████  ██████████</p>
6/8/19	DO NOT draft America's daughters! As a Christian, husband, and a father, I do not believe it is right to send my wife, daughter and any woman in harms way. Also it is not right to take a young mother out of the home, where she cannot care for her child, which would be abandonment. A young lady is much more patriotic, by staying in the home and raising the child. "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide r the house, give none s occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." 1 Timothy 5:14 It is the mans job to do the job of fighting for our country, and protecting his family. Any man could not be protecting his wife and daughters, by letting them go into harm's way. Also women do not have the strength and stamina that men do on average. Allowing women to fight in combat would further weaken our military, and cause more deaths, and destroy the home.
6/9/19	Drafting women will contribute to the further decline of the stability of families. There is NO NEED to draft women. This is NOT a civil rights issue. Social experimentation does not belong in the military. The U.S. needs to focus on combat readiness and combat lethality.
6/9/19	Please please please do not make girls have to signup for the draft Please

6/9/19	<p>As a retired Reserve Officer, I strongly believe that the Country MUST adopt a program of Universal Service for all young Americans, weather that service but with the armed forces, the Peace Corps, Ameri-Corps, or other govt agencies (Forest Service, inner city programs, The Red Cross, FEMA etc). Almost weekly now we see news about disasters occurring in our Country this is where these people should be encouraged (deployed) to help out.</p> <p>I also STRONGLY believe that women should be required to register for Selective Service. Laws should be enacted so that all public educational facilities are required to allow recruiters on campus.</p> <p>Recruiters from other agencies (peace corps, Ameri-corps etc) should also be allowed and encouraged to recruit on both high school and college campuses.</p> <p>I propose 24 months of service after some sort of training, physical fitness program. Members should be placed in dormitories, eat in DFACs, and wear a uniform of some sort.....all of which will build a sense of shared responsibility and common ownership.</p> <p>I also believe that a salary should be provided to these young people based upon education level and responsibilities (ie. 19 year old with high school diploma, vs a 23 year old with a college degree).</p> <p>Your interment report was very knowledgeable and should be sent to all high school guidance counselors in the Country. These guidance counselors should be trained on all the different programs out there, many or which I was not aware of myself and I have been a VOL fire fighter for 34 years.</p> <p>I agree that service to the Nation should be mandatory and if not preformed, there must be strong consequences imposed. If not them the idea of National Service will fail before it even begins. Sadly we have become a Nation of "what's in it for me attitude" Scholarships should be offered, maybe even free education at public colleges if someone wants to serve a longer period of time. 4 years of National Service equals 4 years at a public college, or maybe reduced tuition at a private university. But I absolutely believe that National Service should be tied into the college tuition debt that many Americans are struggling to pay off.</p> <p>Both federal and state govts need to work together on this, as the need for service in both a federal and state level is high.</p> <p>I live in upstate NY and most of our local VOL fire and EMS depts are struggling to find new members. (day time calls when most people are at work is the worst) Maybe we staff these rural fire depts with young people paid for by the federal govt.</p> <p>I will close by saying that our Country is being tore apart by many divisive issues and the only way I see to bridge that gap is by making Americas youth come together as a team and start working together for the good of our country. Something must be done and done soon before it is too late.</p>
6/10/19	<p>The. Selectve Service Draft was created for Emergency Military situations necessitating large number of troops for battle. It is well known that even with the military technology of today soldiers on the ground, depending on certain circumstances, are necessary for success. Therefore, the Selective Service Draft should continue with a mandatory sign up for Women,, as there is for Men. Women have been alllowed, for a number of years, into combat in the Military. It is not fair to Men that Womem do not have to sign up for the draft. In this situztion Equality is the word not only for Women, but also for Men. Believe the Me Too movement would agree. Written by a female who volunteered to serve in the United States Army.</p>
6/10/19	<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? through signing up 18 year old males as soon as the get out of high school. and if that have not found their path in two years of graduating have mandatory sign up for the military</p>

6/10/19

Good morning ~ My comments are related specifically to Item 3 above. We have one son serving as a Naval Flight Officer and one son in the process of applying to Air Force Officer Training School as an engineer. They have both experienced an enormous amount of inefficiency around the application process. The application and approval process for those wanting to serve MUST be streamlined. Our one son has been waiting a full year after college graduation for his final acceptance. How can we expect young people to put their lives and careers on hold for that long while the military reviews applications and schedules Officer Training classes, especially with huge student loan debt looming above their heads. Our older son waited over a year for the process to be completed and then waited months before getting his orders for Officer Candidate School. During this time both of them were asked to complete the same forms multiple times because the various agencies involved didn't share information between them. There should be a central database where application information is stored to reduce duplicate paperwork. Our older son had his physical exam when he was told to have it and then after a year of waiting was told he needed another exam because the first one had expired. They even asked him why he had the first exam so early . . . and the Navy was the one who told him to get it! I understand the need to be thorough in screening applicants but there has to be a way to shorten this process. Our sons are single but I can't imagine how someone with a family to support could afford to wait a year or more to find out if they are accepted. How can they apply for full-time jobs in their chosen profession knowing they don't have long-term intentions because they are waiting for the military to provide their answer. And let's say they are declined for service, now they are a year out of college and have to apply for entry level jobs in their profession.

I realize our experience is related only to officers. I don't know what the enlisted process is. But our sons have college degrees in very lucrative professions. They are willing to take a huge pay cut by using their skills in service to their country. The least we can do is not make them wait so long to even get in the door to their chosen branch of the military.

Thank you for the work you are doing on this project, and for your time in reading our feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Murphy

6/11/19 June 10, 2019

Dear General,

My name is Prabhgun Cheema (pra-bh-gun) and I wanna change this world. I'm 12 years old and I know I'm just a random little girl asking for such a big change but we all need to read this letter and think about what we have done. I know many people say this but I truly have great ideas to share. This world has lived for 4.51 billion years and we've lived on earth for 200,000 thousand years, and in only a few of those years, we have turned this place into a junkyard!

God didn't create us to ruin the earth. God didn't create us to fight each other to the point where we kill each other. And especially god didn't create us to hurt ourselves. God created us to love each other and this world! This world is like a great big gift God gave us. Imagine the earth as a teddy bear. we are so happy at first to get this great big teddy bear but as time passed we just, stopped playing, loving, and caring for that teddy bear.

People. people were not made to fight. people were made to love each other and that's it. we were made to think of new ideas and create new things but I think we used our power as dark magic. you see, people get so excited to finally get there the first iPhone but have you ever seen a person be so happy to see a clean ocean, beach, or even a yard. sure people clean the beaches and oceans but do they really? So here's the real question. are we helping the earth or ruining it...

We should have a day where we have to go outside our houses and fill up 3 full garbage bags of garbage. and you might be wondering, "well no one is going to even do that". well, actually this generation has changed and we know what's happening to this earth and we want to help it. we could make it like how Canada day is or something like that where it shows on everybody calendars.

The USA needs to restrict gun laws. I know this is nothing related to the earth itself but, deep down it truly is. if gun laws were restricted in the states then thousands of the kids who had died could have known the best way to save this earth, could have known the cure to cancer or could have known how to end racism. we need to join hands and come together as one.

war and money. if we just sit still and think about it we have no reason to have war and money. if we don't have war than we will stop hating each other. cause me and you both know that war NEVER solves anything. we need to say sorry to each other and this world. Money. we don't NEED money. like, look at the first nations for a second. they never had money or even knew about what was money. and look they were so happy and so was earth. they were more united together. "The earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth"-Chief Seattle. Just remember this quote.

6/13/19	<p>I am attending the Service Academies Global Summit 2019. The Honorable Debra Wada was a guest speaker.</p> <p>An area that was discussed involved the subject of inspiring American youth to voluntarily decide to serve our Nation for a year.</p> <p>One idea worth exploring might be to engage Hollywood. If you think of high school musical, there could be a show that track different high school or college students on their journey of deciding to serve and their experiences while serving. If it was a musical, it could bring back some of the nostalgia of high school musical.</p> <p>A show like this could run on Netflix and be a series. I believe if you show our youth a picture of what an annual National service engagement looks like, using media that appeals to them, it will be more successful than PSA's or documentaries.</p> <p>I think it's also an opportunity to show where our street drugs actually come from and the danger involved in recreational experimentation.</p> <p>Finally, it's a platform to explain where our national threats come from, which will help our youth understand the mission of DoD, which is preventing war...not glorify it.</p> <p>You could even start a different show that was a reality show tracking someone through boot camp or the service academy.</p> <p>You want to reach the widest amount of people and make the most impact possible. Considering taking your social media and advertising budget and putting it towards feature films, cable network series and reality tv so you can reach the audiences you want (and their parents) in a more effective way.</p>
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You want to reach the widest amount of people and make the most impact possible. Considering taking your social media and advertising budget and putting it towards feature films, cable network series and reality tv so you can reach the audiences you want (and their parents) in a more effective way.

Because I cannot attend your June 20 session in Hyde Park, I offer the following input for your consideration.

The focus on civic education is EXCELLENT, as is the articulated definition and understanding of it. Through your suggested mechanism of enacting civic education through service learning, you have an proven mechanism to (1) engage youth in national service that meets community needs, (2) has students apply hands-on their curriculum and what they need to learn, (3) gives youth practice at being engaged and responsible citizens, and (4) gives them a positive taste for national service that whets their appetites for the military and other forms of adult service. Bravo!

Schools, educative community-based organizations, and other NFEAs are the place to focus your support--that is where service becomes service learning and can be led by teachers and other education professionals. Thanks for recognizing that funds will be needed. Schools across the nation are underfunded. Funds should not create new bureaucracies or positions. Instead, they should support costs to incentivize willing, go-getter NFEAs and educators and cover costs that cannot be covered otherwise: e.g., transportation to learn about needs and then to serve, extra-duty time for teachers, consumable materials for projects, and raw materials for student project creations.

Best practices are in place for service learning--common components and standards for teaching it--so you do not have to reinvent the wheel. Award funds through NFEAs and have them subgrant directly to school districts, schools and teachers. Including recognition is a great idea, as is including funds for practitioners (including students!) to gather to share best practices at regional and national conferences.

The former Learn & Serve America program was a good model--very low-cost and producing huge numbers of participants, programs, and impacts. But CNCS never invested in measuring its impacts, so when the CBO and Congress were looking for something to cut they said there was insufficient data on service learning impact and the program was eliminated in 2011. Also, they knew kids don't lobby. So do not forget to require and support program evaluation and to support assessment at the national level to capture impacts.

Your work is very needed and exciting. CNCS does a lot with AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, but the fact is the U.S. does not have a "national" service program because 75,000,000 youth are unable to participate. You can make this happen. There is insufficient capacity for all youth to serve, so focus on the willing. Young adults who do not do military service can support K-12 students doing projects. Thanks for your consideration, and best wishes.

Joe Follman, Ed.D.  
[REDACTED]

6/13/19 Thoughts on Staff Memorandum on Civic Education

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Schools, educative community-based organizations, and other NFEAs are the place to focus your support--that is where service becomes service learning and can be led by teachers and other education professionals. Thanks for recognizing that funds will be needed. Schools across the nation are underfunded. Funds should not create new bureaucracies or positions. Instead, they should support costs to incentivize willing, go-getter NFEAs and educators and cover costs that cannot be covered otherwise: e.g., transportation to learn about needs and then to serve, extra-duty time for teachers, consumable materials for projects, and raw materials for student project creations.

Best practices are in place for service learning--common components and standards for teaching it--so you do not have to reinvent the wheel. Award funds through NFEAs and have them subgrant directly to school districts, schools and teachers. Including recognition is a great idea, as is including funds for practitioners (including students!) to gather to share best practices at regional and national conferences.

The former Learn & Serve America program was a good model--very low-cost and producing huge numbers of participants, programs, and impacts. But CNCS never invested in measuring its impacts, so when the CBO and Congress were looking for something to cut they said there was insufficient data on service learning impact and the program was eliminated in 2011. Also, they knew kids don't lobby. So do not forget to require and support program evaluation and to support assessment at the national level to capture impacts.

Your work is very needed and exciting. CNCS does a lot with AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, but the fact is the U.S. does not have a "national" service program because 75,000,000 youth are unable to participate. You can make this happen. There is insufficient capacity for all youth to serve, so focus on the willing. Young adults who do not do military service can support K-12 students doing projects. Thanks for your consideration, and best wishes.

Joe Follman, Ed.D.  
[REDACTED]

6/16/19 Hello. Members of the Commission I just wanted to say that I believe that it is very unfair, unjust, and even evil that men are STILL REQUIRED TO REGISTER AT THIS TIME even though Judge Gray Miller has declared the all male draft unconstitutional even though he did not order any injunctive relief. At least, even if women are not required to register, there should be a moratorium on male registration until Congress or the Supreme Court, or both decide this one way or another. Every male required now to register should bring a lawsuit challenging the need for them to register until a decision is made one way or another. This stall and standstill is morally wrong. Congress has had 40 years to finally get women on board this ship unless the selective service is finally done away with. I am far past draft age now but I feel bad for young boys who must bear this burden even while it is now being played on in the courts and even though women have been allowed in all combat positions for years and this is both illegal and immoral. I hope justice will finally prevail. Thanks for allowing me to comment.  
With Respect

6/17/19	<p>Registering for the draft is still needed. To exclude women from the draft is sexually biased against men. Scripture says that in the later day God shall rise up a nation that shall swoop down like an eagle and execute judgement throughout the world. The U.S. has as it's symbol an eagle and is involved in crap all over the world. Jesus taught to give unto Caesar what is Caesar's. Caesar was the government at the time. Our government requires a draft. Scripture also teaches to be subject unto those in authority over you for they bear not the sword in vain. Register for the draft or get arrested. Most of the gender roles are sexist and antiquated. To assume that women must be the ones that stay home and care for children etc. is sexist. Women make up approx. 50% of the U.S. population. Even if we were only able to effectively get 10% of them combat ready, that would increase our fighting force by about 17 million warriors. The very fact that other countries abhor women in combat confirms that we should have them. Tactically it creates a phycological advantage and if women are targeted, that allows us a tactical advantage on where they are most likely to attack. Personally, I have worked alongside women in the Army as a Military Police officer and as a civilian police officer. What I have noticed is that their overall performance is no better or worse than the performance of men. Those that are opposed to women in those roles are comparing them against the strengths of men. Women have their own strengths. Religious leaders and organizations that are opposed to women in combat or being drafted are those that Jesus described as the blind leading the blind. In other words, they have no idea who God is. The only caution that Jesus gave about war was, if you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. It would probably be a good thing of objectors were not criminalized. As a warrior, I would much rather fight alongside a willing participant than one forced to be there.</p>
6/17/19	<p>Volunteering should be voluntary, expand the Corporation for National and Community Service. It has an excellent track record, return on the dollar spent is approximately \$4 return for \$1 spent. Encourage a gap year, encourage retirees to get involved. Make it a national movement by asking all Americans to serve their community through Vista, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, National Civilian Conservation Corps, Retired Senior Volunteer Program.</p>
6/17/19	<p>Not for it!</p>
6/17/19	<p>Not for it!</p>
6/18/19	<p>As a Senior Adviser to the Service over Self America organization headed by MGen (Ret) John Borling, I have commented in previous meetings on the need for a mandatory requirement for all males (18- 25) to serve one year of National Service in the Military as outlined in our SOS America web site (<a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a>). To be successful our program needs a system to track service. We strongly support the enhancement of the Selective Service System to track pre-mobilization resources in a secure and effective system. We feel this system could be modified to track other than military National Service. We should not duplicate the current system but modify it to track military and civic National Service. We support Director Donald Benton in his testimony that the current system is needed and must be maintained as currently operating. More funding is needed and the current system can be linked to a new system to track a mandatory need for National Service. We can continue to study the need for a National Service program, but now is the time to implement one. The requirement for all Americans to serve is needed to address this country's current need. As Gen Borling states, "it takes effort and sacrifice to help the country endure and prosper." The SOS America program should be endorsed and recommended by this commission. Our Leadership stands ready to come to Washington DC to participate in further reviews of this legislative need. Your strong leadership on this issue is welcomed and needed.</p> <p>Dean Hess, Col (ret) USAF</p>

6/19/19	<p>I am a US Army veteran (1969-71), a retired energy manager with over 30 years of public service in non-profits, cooperatives, schools and local government, and a Returned Peace Corps Response volunteer (2017-19). I'm very impressed with the commission's mission, I've read your interim report, and I appreciate the opportunity to offer input for your final report. Here are my general comments in response to your online questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, service to others provides meaning for our lives. Service helps us appreciate being alive, it builds empathy for others, and it connects us to our community.</li> <li>2. I think that it is critical to connect all types of eligible service (not just military) with education and housing benefits currently available through the G.I. Bill. Introductory courses to all types of service in middle &amp; high school (similar to R.O.T.C programs for military) could help young Americans understand the wide range of service possibilities and could also be credited towards a required 2-year commitment.</li> <li>3. Disjointed public policy that doesn't encourage, support and mobilize Americans of all ages to contribute at least 2 years of military, national or public service. Specific barriers in the selective service system can be changed to create much more participation.</li> <li>4. Build on the Peace Corps Response model (<a href="https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/is-peace-corps-right-for-me/peace-corps-response/?_ga=2.30423039.195623160.1560735371-206809318.1505774781">https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/is-peace-corps-right-for-me/peace-corps-response/?_ga=2.30423039.195623160.1560735371-206809318.1505774781</a> ) to recruit skilled professionals of all ages. Once the public policy is in place (e.g. requiring 2 years of service by both men &amp; women), critical needs and delivery agencies can be identified, and the appropriate people can be recruited to fill those roles.</li> <li>5. Yes, as long as the participants retain a choice about how they serve. National security involves more than just military service, and Congress would need to authorize any military conscriptions that are not voluntary to provide a checks and balance over any Presidential authority to put American young people in harm's way.</li> <li>6. Yes. Add women who are required to register by age 18 and give both men &amp; women a choice in how they want to serve for the required 2 years.</li> <li>7. Yes. It's necessary to meet our many current challenges (e.g. universal education, infrastructure development and maintenance, climate change, affordable housing, economic disparity, etc.). It's valuable to help all young people begin their lives as productive U.S. citizens. It's feasible because many of the building blocks are already in place (e.g. AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teacher Corps, Civilian Conservation Corps, etc.).</li> </ol> <p>Since I live in Tucson, AZ, I've also asked my daughter, Elea Crockett, who lives in Brooklyn, NY to testify on my behalf at your final public hearing on June 20 in Hyde Park, NY. Based on her experience, I may submit additional comments. Douglas David Crockett, [REDACTED]</p>
6/19/19	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I am writing in support of The Case for an Expanded Military Service Option, a white paper by Dean Hess. Mr. Hess references the challenge that America faces with our young men increasingly lacking direction and purpose as our society evolves. Finding 'service wisdom' as he stated, is in my opinion the most noble way to mature and grow as a person and as a country. There is a desperate need for an SOS America program in the this country - let us rally together around the concept of noble military service and deliver.</p> <p>Thank you, Mike Krogh, Board Member, SOS America</p>

6/20/19	<p>For the Commission’s review and records, Peter Jesella</p> <p>On Sunday I emailed Mr. Derek Black, Ms. Annie Hsiao, Dr. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Ms. Ananya Singh, and Mr. Alhassan Susso my simple idea of moving initial registration to 17th birthday. Sad to say, like so many others, they have not acknowledged this communication, and even better some kind of feedback to it. “My hope is that you can take some time to review my suggestion on moving youth registration to 17th birthday for an off-and-on, one-year conversation, consideration of civic values, meaning of citizenship for 21st century, and the possibilities of participating in some form of contracted service, AmeriCorps, Teach for America, Peace Corps, Military service; or unpaid part-time volunteer community non-profit service.”</p> <p>“Since most youth would still be in high schools, the primary role of any formal learning content would be established by each high school, it’s local education institutions. The Federal role would be to link this debate to the insurance policy of the Selective Service System and increase the general public awareness on national/regional/local community security needs. Its relationship towards a more healthy, enhanced community wellbeing.”</p> <p>I hope at least one commission member might raise this question with the panelist. More details at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/notes/peter-jesella/peters-written-oral-remarks-to-national-commission-on-military-national-and-publ/2196275167117721/">https://www.facebook.com/notes/peter-jesella/peters-written-oral-remarks-to-national-commission-on-military-national-and-publ/2196275167117721/</a></p>
6/20/19	<p>Dear Commission Members:</p> <p>I am currently a Board of Director of SOS America. The organization supports the philosophy of the need for all males (18-25) to serve one year of National Service in the Military as outlined in our SOS America site (<a href="http://www.sosamerica.org">www.sosamerica.org</a>). I am in support of Dean Hess' presentation before your Commission. The need is NOW!. Your support of this program will allow for assisting in the further development of our men 18-25. Funding is needed and with your assistance , this worthwhile endeavor can become a reality. The program will assist in tracking service, and act in coordination of our Selective Service System. Thank you for your consideration. Your support is needed.</p> <p>Kenneth J. Kogut, Ph.D.,P.E.,CEM,GBE,CSDP SOS America Board of Director (Former USNR)</p>
6/20/19	<p>Feedback on service. If you included Peace Corps &amp; Americorps Service as an alternative to mandatory military service I would be on board. Also, since trans people are not accommodated in Donald Trump's heinous military policy I would be morally opposed to serving in the military. That and unjust, illegal wars. This administration doesn't have the credibility to implements something like this.</p>
6/21/19	<p>My name is Brittany Moore. I am a senior at Cleveland State University dual majoring in nonprofit Administration and Organizational Leadership. I am writing to discuss my thoughts on three topics of importance. The first being Civic Education and Service in Schools. I have served for 3 years as an AmeriCorps member and my service was focused on education and health disparities. My service led me to work with students ranging from 5th grade to first year medical and pharmacy students. They were educated on health disparities and were tasked with choosing a disparity, researching the impact that it has had on their community, creating a service project or program to spread awareness or help those impacted, seek grant funds, implement their projects, and share their outcomes. For three years, I was privileged to watch students with fiery passions come together to fight or bring awareness to mental health, homelessness, hunger, poverty, etc. It was nothing short of amazing to see how passionate they were about the disparities they were addressing. Without the program that housed my Corps, these students may have never gotten the opportunity to not only learn but actually participate in civic service. The curriculum for many of the schools does not include civic education and service learning. There is nothing teaching these kids about activism, volunteerism, civic service, etc. They are learning these things via social media but many still do not take action. If there was a way to introduce and enforce a federal standard of civic education in schools, it would leave the world in a much better place. Society is currently divided but civic education would be a great way to cross that divide and connect students, peers, educators, parents, etc. to the sufferings of the less fortunate as they help them rebuild their lives. Throwing money at a cause is helpful but teaching kids about boots on the ground service and giving them the opportunity to see first hand the impact that they can have when they are active in their</p>

	<p>communities is a win for all humanity. My second topic is the critical skills and benefits of civic education and service. If civic education and service learning are implemented into school curriculum, students will receive an education that not only prepares them for an academic future, but also provides them with the experience to become active contributing citizens. These experiences will help them build and develop intra- and inter- personal skills. Civic education and service gives them the ability to truly know their own strengths and weaknesses but also teaches them things like compassion, empathy, and how to communicate with others. Lastly, these great benefits can only be attained if there are more opportunities for students to serve. These opportunities will need to take place on many levels but anything done on the national level is seen as a call to action for localities to follow suite. We have to harvest our youth's passion!</p>
6/23/19	<p>As the parent of a 19-year-old who is currently in college, I would highly recommend that you not require all young people to serve a year after graduation from high school. My husband and I began saving for our son's college education when he was very young, and his schools started pushing students to think about their career paths and college choices very early--in middle school. I expect there are other districts when that guidance comes earlier. I think that many parents would be incredibly negative about such a plan as yours if it is dropped on them mid-stream. After saving for years for my son's college education and then finding he would need to put off college for a year would be very frustrating for me and I know for others, too. Making service a way to work off student loans would be a good idea and would help in taking care of a tremendous problem our nation faces.</p>
6/23/19	<p>P.S. Didn't you want my name??????</p>
6/24/19	<p>Having the opportunity to serve expands one's experience of being an American by exposing one to the needs of our own people and providing a role to help fill those needs. I felt much more connected to my identity as an American and to the people that make up our nation when I served in AmeriCorps. That service inspired a lifelong passion for civic engagement and civic commitment- to a respect for the number of people needed to keep our country running and able to meet the needs of whatever challenges lie ahead. Service teaches one to value outcomes for everyone. It provides young people with the opportunity to gain professional and moral exposure that can inform their careers and the kind of adults they will become. I think more resources need to be put into expanding opportunities to serve through AmeriCorps programs like Teach for America (and others designed for different field- construction, healthcare, tech fields, etc), giving people with different skill sets the opportunity to spend a year or more working in a needed location and field. Another idea is a national service requirement that can be filled through military service, AmeriCorps, HealthCorps, Teach for America, and others. It could be a much more enriching 'gap year' and our nation would benefit from the service and lifelong shaping of civic values in its upcoming generation.</p>
6/24/19	<p>Hello honestly I believe there should be a moratorium for now on all male registration until the Congress and Supreme Court work things out if they ever do. It is very evil that men have to continue registering even though there has been a declaration that the all male draft is unconstitutional. At least should take place if nothing else for now until women get on board this ship as well or it is totally sunk by doing away with it. But unconstitutional but business as usual is evil, wrong, double faced. I am sorry but God's will demands some justice after 40 years. With Respect</p>

6/30/19

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

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

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

1. We are opposed to the failed policy of draft registration. The information gathered by the Selective Service through the registration program is often inaccurate and its collection serves little purpose other than to encourage a sense of over-obedience to the demands of our nation. We call for the immediate dissolution of the Selective Service System and the destruction of all data submitted by past applicants.

2. We are opposed to an expansion of draft registration to encompass women, because we oppose the draft for all people.

3. We share the concern of many that our current so-called "voluntary" military is in fact not voluntary, that the majority of those who enlist do so due to issues of economic duress. However, we do not support the use of a draft to ameliorate this issue, as history has shown that those with financial resources will find sufficient loopholes to avoid military service, as we know from the example of our President Trump's experience when he was of draft age. We believe that a better way to address the issues of social inequity with regards to military service is for our nation to: (1) immediately withdraw all troops from US military posts in the Middle East region and other "hot spots," (2) radically reduce the size of the US military through allowing servicemembers to seek and receive early discharges from military service, (3) end all coercive and abusive military recruitment policies including allowing 17 year olds to join the military, (4) actually enforce the medical standards for enlistment, and (5) redirecting the funds previously spent on the military to programs that will address our nation's growing gap between the rich and the poor.

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

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

6. We commend those who have resisted draft registration as a matter of conscience

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

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

6/30/19 Dear Commissioners: I am writing to express my concerns regarding the review of the Military Selective Service (herein "draft") system. While I support some efforts to encourage a universal national service, I do not support the mandatory registration of females in the military draft. Due to the fairly recent opening of combat jobs to women, I am particularly concerned with any future requirement that females be required to register for the draft which results in a mandatory placement into combat or near combat locations. Any development of a future universal national service should offer alternatives to military service. Sincerely, Lars Turner.

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	placement into combat or near combat locations. Any development of a future universal national service should offer alternatives to military service. Sincerely, Bree Turner.
6/30/19	In your one page summary, you list barriers to service. You don't have the primary barrier to the public who wants to get a job with the federal government-- they can't get through the broken assessment process, which relies on HR just checking for keywords and then applying veteran preference points. So truly qualified applicants from the public simply do not get a chance. OPM needs to change their assessment policy.