

Subject: FW: Submission
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To: <info@inspire2serve.gov>

From: John McClaughry [<mailto:ethanallen@kingcon.com>]
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 1:11 PM
To: 'info@inspire2serve.gov'
Subject: Submission

Please be good enough to include this submission for consideration of the Commission and the public. Thank you

John McClaughry*, President

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—Attachments:—

American Register proposal 0219.docx

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THE AMERICAN REGISTER

Purpose: to propose a voluntary alternative to mandatory draft or national service registration, that emphasizes the benefits of participation instead of the penalties for failing to register.

Background: Under selective service registration, all young men (but not women) at age 18 are mandated to register with Selective Service, under penalty of possible prosecution, fines, and jail sentences. Registration is a prelude to induction, if the draft or a civilian analog were reinstated.

Proposal: This proposed alternative rejects mandatory registration in favor of voluntary enrollment on “The American Register”. Enrollment by a young man or woman would be accompanied by benefits and opportunities, not by the specter of involuntary conscription.

Through widespread publicity in schools and the media, young Americans would be urged to enroll on the Register beginning on the Fourth of July of the year they turn eighteen, and thereafter. The Register would be readily accessible on line.

Registration information would include name, address, date and place of birth, citizenship, and perhaps schools attended. Registrants could add optional information such as extracurricular activities, areas of interest, service interests, and special skills. Each registrant would be given a code number.

Upon enrollment, the registrant would receive by mail a packet including:

- A personalized letter from the President, thanking the registrant for affirming his or her commitment to American ideals and (inferred) interest in serving the country.
- An attractive personalized certificate attesting registration
- A booklet describing the principles of a free society and why they are worth defending.
- A booklet describing career opportunities in U.S. armed forces and Peace Corps.
- A booklet describing how registration can open doors for young people: post-secondary education, apprenticeships, employment opportunities, mentoring.
- An offer of a free medical examination and assessment.
- A ticket for a drawing for a free trip to the White House to meet the President.

Meanwhile, older Americans are invited to register as mentors, counselors, career guides, etc. on a Senior American Register, publicly accessible online. Their registration would supply useful information about themselves, their location, their availability, and their willingness to help young people get started in life.

Young registrants would be able to search online for suitable Seniors in their communities, and contact them voluntarily. Registrants would have the online opportunity to report the value of the connections thus made, as in online hotel or restaurant evaluations.

Employers, colleges, community service, and patriotic organizations would be encouraged to put a space on their job applications where applicants could indicate their enrollment on the American Register. (The actual enrollment data would not be searchable, but an employer etc. could obtain online a Yes/No to verify the statement made by any applicant.) Many businesses or organizations seeking a new worker or participant would give due weight to those who evinced the public spirit to register.

Registrants would be encouraged to update the Register online as to their whereabouts and educational, career and military achievements, at least through age 26.

Advantages include:

- No involuntary mandate or conscription.
- Encouragement of voluntary registration by extending recognition, status and opportunities.
- At the registrant's request, Armed Forces recruiters would benefit from the leads.
- Millions of older Americans would be asked to serve voluntarily to help young registrants understand and take advantage of opportunities in their communities and nation.
- The program, computerized, would surely cost much less than maintaining a Selective Service system.

(An earlier version of this proposal was first put forward as a White House internal working paper by Senior Policy Advisor John McClaughry in 1981, when continuation of selective service registration was under review. However, due to tensions with the Soviet Union, President Reagan (reluctantly) agreed to continue draft registration.)