

The National Commission on Military, Nacional, and Public Service

Public hearing

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

February 23, 2018

Statement opposing the reinstatement of the military draft

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

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

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

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