

December 1, 2019

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service
2530 Crystal Drive
Suite 1000, Box #63
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject: General re: required national service

To Whom It Concerns:

I wish to comment on two elements in the discussion regarding required national service.

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 preparation 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.

Regarding other service – we should encourage our citizens to see beyond national boundaries and look for service opportunities that are globally inspired. To think of “national” service is too limited a horizon. Certainly some service opportunities could be local in nature. But even then, the goal should be to strengthen the concept of the human race as one, rather than bolster the tribal mindset of nationalism. For overseas assignments, these should be in tandem with, and following the lead of, the host communities, rather than thinking of how the U.S. solely or primarily can benefit.

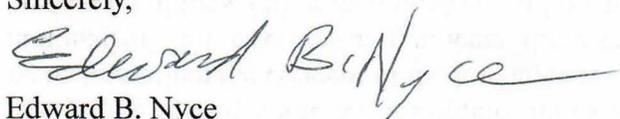
So I don't think any service should be required. Service opportunities that are afforded should be with all of humanity in mind, rather than formulated for an advantage solely or primarily for the U.S.

2. I am opposed to the continuation of required Selective Service registration. Hence, I am also opposed to women being required to register.

Of what am I in favor? Encouraging and providing resources for our citizens wishing 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



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