

October 10, 2018

Chaplain (Colonel) Franklin Eric Wester

2100 Lee Highway, # 545

Arlington, VA 22201

Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

ATTN: RFI Comment – Docket 05-2018-01

2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sirs/ Ma'ams:

I write in support of major changes to the current Selective Service registration aims and procedures. Chief among my requests is for the Selective Service registration, whatever form it may take in the future, to **make provision for Conscientious Objector status** at the time of registration.

As a career military officer, former senior military fellow at National Defense University (Fort McNair) with teaching opportunities at the senior service college, and Lutheran clergyman and military chaplain, I believe registration for military or other public service is strengthened by including provisions to identify as a Conscientious Objector (CO). The criteria for CO status should be at least as clear as specified by military regulations today. Such an option opens a pathway for alternative public service by COs.

Secondly, given continuing erosion of political and civil discourse along with untapped opportunities to foster stronger citizenship and service, I hope one outcome of the work of the Commission is **proposing unified program for mandatory, national public service** for men and women as a pathway toward adulthood in our Nation. Experts from Dr. Isabel Sawhill (Brookings) to retired (four-star) General Stanley McChrystal have laid out the benefits of national service. I hope the Commission can provide an achievable way forward for our country to benefit from the direct service and secondary benefits for deepening citizenship which a period of public service can provide.

Sincerely yours,



Franklin Eric Wester