

National Commission on Military,
National, and Public Service
Attn: RFI Comment-Docket 05-2018-01
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite 1000,Rm.1029
Arlington, VA. 22202

Dear Sirs:

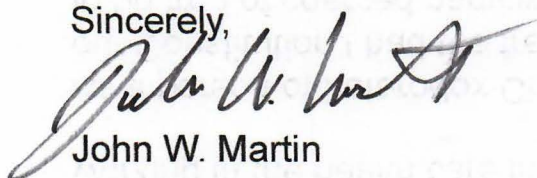
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Commission for this opportunity to affirm my Christian beliefs regarding changes to the military Selective Service system.

In regards to the issue of national service, I want to share with you my own personal feelings and strongly held Christian beliefs. On March 12, 1971, I was assigned to preform 24 months of alternative service as a religious Conscientious Objector. I found work at a local Jewish Hospital after trying to find work at various non profit and religious organizations. I continued working in the health care industry for another 25 years.

As a person of heterodox Christian faith, I am thankful that under our Constitution I had the freedom to follow my conscience, and to be free of coerced participation in war and militarism. Following the teaching of Jesus in the Ethic of Reciprocity (Matt.7) and the Beatitudes (Matt.5), we are called to be the ambassadors of peace, and to demonstrate relevance to life, (Deut.5). Our opposition to war is an expression of our personal conviction that each person is made in the image of God. Serving others and overcoming evil with good are the core value of Christians. Therefore, I join my voice with those that are concerned by the Commission's conflation of service to the community with military service.

As long as the Selective Service System exists, I strongly support its continued civilian leadership. I offer my suggestion, however, that conscientious objectors be included in the system's process wherever possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

John W. Martin