

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Extending Selective Service registration to all Americans

- How does your organization view extending the Selective Service registration requirement to all Americans, particularly women? Does this perspective hold true across your membership?
 - *Selective Service should include all Americans regardless of gender.*
 - *A draft of these persons should not automatically be for combat units.*
 - *This perspective is shared across the membership.*
- Are there any circumstances under which your organization would support standing conscription, as opposed to the current system of a draft contingency?
 - *The organization would support that there would be circumstances the standing conscription would be better than the current system. Especially in an excessively large mobilization similar to WWII.*
 - *The quality of individuals matriculating into the military are better because they are a volunteer force. Any change in accession policy may be met with skepticism if those changes hamper the ability to join qualified personnel of appropriate character and physicality to meet the requirements of military service.*
 - *If recruiting efforts fail to fulfill mission, a draft or standing conscription may need to be instituted.*
- The Commission has heard from some communities that using the draft would have been appropriate to support the increased need for personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under what conditions would your organization support the use of the draft?
 - *The draft has not been necessary up to this point because services were meeting recruiting mission goals. At some point, they will identify critical failure if they do not increase manpower.*
 - *An all-volunteer force results in a better qualified team. If recruiting efforts fail to fulfill mission, a draft or standing conscription may need to be instituted.*
 - *Given the highly technical skill-sets required for some military occupational specialties (MOS), standing conscription may not bring aboard the skill-sets needed. Rather, there will be bodies in seats performing ineffectively.*
- With your unique perspective as veterans, spouses, family members, and members of the military community, are there any other issues you'd like to raise to the attention of the Commission?
 - *People exiting the military set the example for military service and resulting abilities (work skills, mental health, etc.). Military members are losing their tribe when they exit service and America needs to figure out how to be a tribe for our veterans (see Tribe by Sebastian Junger).*
 - *Increase technical skill certifications prior to separation (Corpsman become EMT-P, Electricians become Journeymen, etc.)*

Any other question as it relates to the scope of the Commission's work:

- Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?
 - *Absolutely.*
- Are modifications to the selective service system needed?
 - *Yes, to include all Americans regardless of gender.*
- How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?
 - *Need to market to youth in their area (social media)*
 - *Increased Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs*

- *Encourage and promote ROTC programs (especially ROTC scholarships)*
- *College being paid for enlisted on active duty in the military (Forever GI Bill still follows service)*
- *In middle school, youth have already formed habits and opinions. In high school, these habits and opinions are difficult to change. Engage youth at an early developmental level to promote a sense of participation in something greater than themselves and a sense of community.*
- *Promote Community Service activity at all levels K-12 in schools. Community Service needs to start earlier*
- *Need an organized process for developing a sense of responsibility in youth from K-12*
- *Expand physical fitness, healthy eating, and portion control programs in youth*
- *Encourage team building events and programs like sports*
- **What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?**
 - *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) testing results vs MOS manpower needs.*
 - *Youth physical fitness in the general population*
 - *Drug abuse (gateway drugs, opioids, prescription, etc.)*
 - *Behavioral prescription medication/medical history*
 - *Criminal history*
- **Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?**
 - *Leadership, character building, skills development, educational opportunities, sense of self-worth, accomplishment, personal interaction skills, cultural diversity, and patriotism.*
- **Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?**
 - *A four-year mandatory requirement for civil service (military or other) would be welcomed if people meet qualifications.*
- **How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?**
 - *Need to market to youth in their area (social media)*
 - *Encourage and promote ROTC programs (especially ROTC scholarships)*
 - *College being paid for enlisted on active duty in the military (Forever GI Bill still follows service)*
 - *In middle school, youth have already formed habits and opinions. In high school, these habits and opinions are difficult to change. Engage youth at an early developmental level to promote a sense of participation in something greater than themselves and a sense of community.*
 - *Promote Community Service activity at all levels K-12 in schools. Community Service needs to start earlier*
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