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National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service  
Attn: RFI COMMENT - Docket 05-2018-01  
2530 Crystal Drive, Ste 1000, Room 1029  
Arlington, VA 22202

April 16, 2018

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts on the current Selective Services System (SSS).

I strongly believe that the military draft is not a necessary component of national security. The current SSS has been insignificant and impractical. There are at least three advantages to a volunteer military force. First, the fine men and women in today's military are motivated to be where they are. This results in fewer disciplinary issues and more efficient training. A higher cost for training non-volunteers would be worsened by the many physically unqualified Americans. Unfit recruits may delay a training program or easily get injured and become patients of the overburdened Veteran's Administration. Finally, our military relies on smaller, mobile formations working with surveillance technology and precision guided weapons. Unlike in past wars where invasions would deploy over 2 million troops, today's operations would never require such a large number of military personnel and would possibly hinder a sensitive maneuver.

Modifications to the SSS to include national and public services, however, may be extremely beneficial. Programs such as AmeriCorp, PeaceCorps, CitizenCorps, Federal Election Volunteers, Natural Resources Conservation Earth Team Volunteers, etc., may be popular and prove to be important to U.S. national security. Once these services become better known, Americans of all ages may look forward to registering for the SSS.

If a mandatory service requirement be implemented it will be critical to not penalize the few who don't register by making it a felony punishable by a fine or a prison term or both. Service has inherent value if and only if it is provided by participants willing and able to serve. Design the SSS to be creative, positive, rewarding and fun.

The respect and funding of national and public organizations must resume immediately to begin increasing awareness and interest in these programs. Conservative politicians have demonstrated total disregard for the mission and goals of services that benefit education, public safety, health, and the environment. The eroding of the original mission and goals of the Environmental Protection Agency is just one example.

Once the non-military services component of the SSS is established, it must be carefully implemented as to not become similar to the Hitler Youth organization in Germany in which thousands of youth were indoctrinated to Nazi ideals.

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Participation in service by individuals with critical skills would increase if the jobs pay well, contain benefits (including repaying school loans), offer status, continually challenge participants, match individual talents and skills, offer career advancement, and provide a satisfying work-life balance. Involvement may increase when and if the SSS is safe for all men and women. It must make every effort to prove that it is truly free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying of all protected groups.

Sincerely,



Sally A. Lewis