

Subject: Docket 05-2018-01 comments
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Attached are comments from several AmeriCorps members at Pepperdine University in response to the Commission's questions on service. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Michelle

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— Attachments: —

Pepperdine CMs National Commission comments.pdf

101 KB

Bailey (Gabbie) Jurik

Jumpstart Corps members 2017-18

1. I don't believe it is. Part of the standards America stands on is freedom, and if people are drafted and forced to participate in the military, it is going against our freedom and tearing people out of their homes to serve for the country. We have a good number of Americans that would willingly love to serve for the country to protect it. Those are the people that would perform the best as well, because they made the decision, on their own, to fight for America and they didn't have to be forced.
2. I think that America being more transparent with its needs to its citizens would help. I am honestly not fully aware of even what needs we have at the moment. I have a general idea, just based on poverty issues and unemployment rates, but when it comes to the military, I have no idea where America's needs are.
3. Incentives are always a way to get people to do what you want them to do, but that would be too costly considering Americans are already paying high taxes. I think for the public service needs, each city and community could welcome volunteer work so that the city isn't using its budget on the simpler things. For example, if there was a pot hole in the road, the city could announce the need and get volunteers to fix it so the tax dollars that would be used to fix things like that could be used for education, the homeless population, etc. The hope would be that as more people volunteer and tax dollars are used where they are needed, they could end poverty.
4. To be honest, I do not know a lot about this topic, but I think age can be a huge barrier. Also, the fact that people want to start families and lives. People are kind of caught up in their own hopes and dreams and sometimes forget the importance of service.
5. Absolutely. People that serve now don't always see the immediate benefits, but the ultimate goal for some is to help make the world a better place for the generations after them. Every bit of service helps and even if you can't see it now, you will feel rewarded knowing that it will eventually make a difference.
6. I think it would be awesome if every person did something even if it was as small as planting flowers around the community, but the reality is that a large majority would fight against that because they don't want to have to be forced to do something. It is necessary and would be extremely valuable, but just wouldn't be feasible.
7. It is very hard, but just making Americans aware of an ultimate goal they are trying to reach and the benefits that will come with their service. Maybe coming across in a new way with more of an emotional appeal could help. Go for a more positive take on things and the lives that could be changed rather than making people feel they are being guilted into service. Start small with just showing people how they could do simple things to help around their communities, so they feel that the service they do is feasible.

Krystine Annah Anguzza

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Jumpstart 2017-2018

1. I do believe everyone wishes the draft was not necessary. As far as I know, volunteers make up a large enough military during peacetime. But if major war comes, a small military is a weakness and puts the country in danger. Willing men should be used as often as possible, but if more are needed, the draft is still a necessity. It is tempting to believe that another world war will never happen and push it to the back of the mind, especially when the idea of my boyfriend and other friends being selected makes me feel sick. But shutting our eyes against possible danger will only be regretted if a crisis occurs.
2. Since I am a woman, I knew very little about the selective service system. However, none of my male friends have spoken to me about any issues with it.
3. For military participation, some efforts to foster patriotism from a young age would likely be the best way to help. I will use myself as an example to illustrate my point. I have graduated high school, but I do not fully understand the concept of patriotism. Putting the people of my own country above the perfectly human people of other nations confuses me. I know the issue is far more complicated than that, and if someone took the time to discuss it with me, perhaps I would come to agree. And perhaps not. From my experience, the concept is little touched in school. If it was, maybe more young people would be inclined to join the military for more of the right reasons. Civic duty is another thing little discussed in school. That is likely because it is laden with the fight-inducing topics of politics. But if a way was found to introduce it more in the education system, hopefully, more people would be willing to participate in national and public services.
4. I already discussed educational barriers in the above question. If people are not informed thoroughly about these concepts, they will misunderstand and mostly likely underestimate their importance. Some other barriers to military service are quite obvious. I have a lot of military in my family history, and I thought about enlisting myself. However, I realized that if I found myself in a war zone, I do not think I could bring myself to kill, and I would most likely die quickly. My guess is that my line of thought is quite common. I touched on another barrier to other types of service in the above questions as well: politics. Many people stay as far away from it as possible. Others are all too ready to fight. Neither is conducive to coming together and helping people.
5. Service absolutely has an inherent value. First of all, it's needed. As long as this world turns, there will be people in need, in all sorts of ways. And if life has an inherent value (which it does), then so do the actions that uphold life for those are struggling. And serving others is good for the servant. The hope is that people become less self-centered, and I think we can all agree that a world with less high maintenance people is a better world.
6. Despite the many benefits of service, both for the people being served and the ones doing the serving, I do not think a mandatory service requirement would ever be feasible. At least not in a country where freedom is a core value. People would cry tyranny, and whatever service they did end up doing under compulsion would be worth very little. Somehow people have to be made to want to serve, perhaps by considering it an honor.
7. I am confused by the wording of this question. If it is asking me to identify ways that the United States already employs to increase participation in service, my answer would be that volunteer work

is both required and encouraged in school. Though some students grumble all the way through it, many who start out complaining fall in love with service and never stop. If it is asking what the United States should do to increase participation in service, I would reinforce my comments above. In short, patriotism and civic duty should be more a discussion in the education system. Students should not leave school still confused about these issues or unaware of what to practically do with that understanding.

Angel Weaver

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Service 2017-2018

1. No, I do not feel that a military draft or draft contingency is still a necessary component of U.S. security.
2. Yes, modifications to the selective service are needed.
3. One way to increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals is to change or increase the benefits to appeal more to individuals that have the skills that best match needs of the nation.
4. Motivation is probably the biggest barrier to participation in military, national, or public service.
5. No, service does not have inherent value.
6. No, a mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable or feasible. There are people who are not suited for service and money could be spent elsewhere.
7. To increase the propensity for Americans to serve, it would be best to inform them of the benefits they'll receive for their service.

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Jumpstart Terms of Service: 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

1. Yes, a military draft is still necessary for national security. While it may not always be necessary to use the draft, if voluntary participation decreases or an extreme national threat occurs it will be beneficial to have a draft.
2. I feel as if I do not have enough knowledge regarding the selective services system at this time to fully understand what changes would need to be made.
3. I think the only way would be to increase compensation for the specialized work they would be completing.
4. I believe that some barriers are the strict requirements to participate in the military as well as the time commitment needed for military, national, and public service. I think that many people don't view the compensation as benefit enough for the time spent.
5. For some people service does have an inherent value but for others it does not. Its inherent value for some stems from there want to contribute, help, or make a change in the society they live in. They feel that through participating in service they are doing good for society.
6. I don't think this is a feasible option. I believe that it would take way the honor that people in the military fell through voluntarily participating. Efforts and results would greatly suffer because people would not have motives to help other than it was required for them to do so.
7. I think they would have to target the emotional appeal of what service would being to there lives and society. An increase in compensation may help but I think the reward and persuasion will come more from the idea that they are make improvements and protecting the people.

Julia Gho

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2017-2018

1. At the very least, I think a draft contingency is still a necessary component of US national security. There's no guarantee on what may happen in the future and it's more than possible that military forces will be needed. In the event that there aren't enough volunteers, it's important to have an alternate recruitment procedure.
2. From what I understand of the selective service system, as long as it's done transparently and fairly I don't think modifications are needed. I'm not saying that modifications are unnecessary though as there may be better and more efficient methods of doing things.
3. Providing incentives for individuals with the needed skills would be a classic method to encourage more participation in various types of services. It's also important to encourage people to volunteer by encouraging participation, and sharing how much help is needed as well as the difference made by such support.
4. I think that some of the barriers to participation in various types of service are gender, racial discrimination, and language abilities. I don't think that these barriers completely prevent people from participating but I do believe that they can create pressure and an environment that makes people feel unsafe.
5. I feel that service does have inherent value. It's good character building if done correctly and with the right mindset. It also connects those involved with one another as well as the community. It helps us to see that there are many things that we can do to help others or support our country.
6. Service is necessary, valuable, and feasible. However, making service mandatory may create problems, especially if those involved aren't invested, interested, or willing. I feel that service is done better when it's done willingly and with the proper motives. At the same time, I understand that some services may need to be mandatory because there are certain quotas to fulfill.
7. There are a lot of programs available for people to participate in and provide some sort of service. Furthermore, a lot of the programs seem to have some sort of incentive for those that qualify.

Ashley Bonin

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Term of Service: 2017-2018

1. Yes, because in the case of global conflict or national emergency the United States needs to be able to call on its citizens in order to sufficiently address the problem. Yes, I think that women should be included in the draft now.
2. Yes, I think that women should be included in the draft now.
3. The United States could increase individuals with these skills by shifting their marketing to college students and college grads and providing incentives for these types of people to want to participate in military, national, and public service.
4. A common barrier to participation in military, national or public service would be medical restrictions. An additional barrier would be that that type of lifestyle does not appeal to a lot of people.
5. Yes, because you are serving your community and bettering the lives of others in addition to bettering your own life.
6. While it could be valuable to people in gaining an understanding of their government. I do not think that it is necessary for such a requirement as not everyone is suited for this type of service and their skills could be better put to use elsewhere.
7. The United States could market the military life and public service life in a more positive manner that would be appealing to Americans and in particular young Americans.