

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

November 17, 2021

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

As CEO and President of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), I am writing on behalf of our hundreds of thousands of members and supporters in strong opposition to Section 511 (the Reed amendment) in S. 2792, the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), requiring women to register with the Selective Service for a potential military draft. This unjustified, monumental reversal in military policy must be rejected. CWALAC will score against any NDAA with this provision intact.

American women are free to serve and proud to serve, but they should not be forced to serve. The Reed amendment seeks to reverse longstanding policy and add young women to the draft. The Supreme Court of the United States upheld the all-male draft as constitutional in the 1981 *Rostker v. Goldberg* decision. Assigning priority to “equity” over military necessity would hinder the rapid replacement of combat casualties by diverting scarce time and resources to evaluating and training thousands of draft-age women.

This policy fails to follow the science, as numerous studies have proven, that enduring differences between the sexes have everything to do with readiness in wartime. For example, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force within the U.S. Marine Corps found that all-male quads outperformed gender-integrated teams 69% of the time, and women had a musculoskeletal injury rate over twice that of men. We admire and support the patriotic women who volunteer for military service, but we refuse to believe the destructive lie that women’s equality means sameness with men.

Adding to these concerns, the Reed Amendment expands the purpose of the Selective Service without limits, leaving the federal government with a blank slate to declare a national emergency and institute a draft for any number of unspecified reasons. Awarding such latitude to any administration is too great a risk.

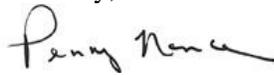
Section 511 also forces the military to be sex-blind in all selection, training, and service under the Military Selective Service Act, prohibiting any differentiation according to sex and erasing key biological distinctions between males and females. While some insist that women draftees would not be sent to combat, this legal standard compels the Department of Defense to treat women the same as men. Furthermore, despite continued advancements in technology, the U.S. Army anticipates violent, close-quarters combat in the next war.¹ Members must have full clarity on the implications of every provision in this amendment and receive a complete accounting of its cost. The Selective Service is not a social

¹ <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/10/28/army-expects-fierce-close-combat-next-war-despite-advanced-tech.html>

experiment, and Congress would be remiss to advance legislation that jeopardizes national security priorities and wartime readiness.

A 2021 Ipsos poll noted a decline in support for drafting women—especially among females—since the issue was last debated in 2016, with only 45% of Americans and a third of women in favor of the policy.² Congress can respect women and their role in serving our nation without forcing the military to be co-opted into a broader ideological project. For these reasons, CWALAC will score against final passage of S. 2792 in its current form. We urge you to vote NO on an NDAA that drafts our daughters. Anticipating that amendments will be made in order on the Senate floor, we encourage members to support removing this provision and will score in favor of an amendment to strike Section 511. CWALAC will be informing our members of your position on drafting our daughters and will include these votes in our annual scorecard.

Sincerely,



Penny Young Nance
CEO and President

² <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/military-draft-women-support-2021>