

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

June 20, 2024

Dear Senators,

We write to you in serious concern about the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2025 which the Senate Armed Services Committee approved on June 14. The legislation is unacceptable because it would amend the Military Selective Service Act (MSSA) to require young women to register with Selective Service for a possible future draft.

This monumental policy change would force the U.S. military to erase key biological differences between males and females that will affect readiness in wartime. This is a matter of national security – not “women’s rights,” “men’s rights,” or civilian volunteer service. The Senate should not buy into the lie that women’s equality with men means that the sexes are the same. Drafting our daughters should not be a political ploy used to secure critical funds for the military.

Despite reoccurring efforts to amend the MSSA in this way, the case for including women in the never draft has never been made successfully. The first attempt to include women in the draft was famously under President Jimmy Carter’s administration. The Supreme Court, however, ruled in *Rostker v. Goldberg* that Congress “*was certainly entitled, in the exercise of its constitutional powers to raise and regulate armies and navies, to focus on the question of military need rather than ‘equity.’*”

In 2016, those in favor of the provision authorized a \$45 million National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to provide a defense for drafting women. After three years of research, the Commission’s Final Report recommended that Selective Service obligations be imposed on women simply because: “*The time is right.*” ([Executive Summary](#), p. 12)

The time is never right to legislate an ill-advised social experiment that would imperil the defense of our nation. Enactment of this language in the NDAA could mean that any future call for Selective Service draftees would have to include women in equal numbers. Theories about gender equality, about the capabilities of women being on par with men, would break down here.

Numerous studies, including [this one](#) for the Naval Health Research Center and others mentioned [here](#), have shown that *most* women cannot meet combat arms standards while *most* men can. “Gender-neutral” call-ups of both men and women would [jam the induction pipeline](#) and slow mobilization at the worst possible time – when our soldiers are fighting and dying on the battlefield.

The National Commission barely mentioned the three-year, \$36 million research study that the Marine Corps conducted with scientific evaluations by the University of Pittsburgh and other leading experts. In field tests simulating typical combat tasks, experts compared the performance of all-male and mixed-gender units operating heavy weapons and marching under combat loads.

A four-page [summary](#) of voluminous [findings](#) reported that servicewomen were two to six times more likely to be injured, and all-male squads and teams out-performed mixed-gender units 69% of the time. Citing this research in 2015, the Marine Corps asked that some infantry units remain all-

male. The Defense Department ignored the Commandant's request and the highly credible research findings that backed it up.

This provision also does not take into account the effect it would have on men serving in combat roles. [Research](#) conducted by Columbia University's Medical Research Council found that men are hard-wired to put women first. Their work, published in the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, found that men are more likely to sacrifice a man than a woman in any life-threatening situation. This leads to the conclusion that a soldier might choose the safety of a woman over the safety of other soldiers in a group.

We admire and support the patriotic women who volunteer for military service, and no one questions their commitment or their courage. Those who serve in America's military are free to pursue their dreams and contribute to the defense of our nation to the best of their abilities. But this is quite different from the involuntary registration and possible conscription of draft-age women. Instead of improving military readiness, such a policy would weaken our national defense and harm both our male and female servicemembers.

This is not about "fairness." Women have always volunteered to serve in times of national emergency and will continue to do so. Instead, it is an affront to assume that they would not do so, and an insult to the inherent dignity and intrinsic value of women to include them in the draft. If Congress truly respects women, it will not allow the military to be co-opted into a broader ideological project, which includes destroying all distinctions between being male and female, regardless of the well-being of the men and women who serve or of society at large.

Sacrificing our young women on the faux altar of equality is a dealbreaker. Any country that gambles the lives of its daughters on foreign wars threatens its own future, and we call on Congress to reject this provision in the FY 2025 NDAA.

Respectfully,

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