

May 23, 2016

The Honorable  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

We the undersigned, on behalf of the hundreds of thousands nationwide whom we represent, ask for your support of Sen. Mike Lee's amendment which would strike the provision within the National Defense Authorization Act that would expand the Military Selective Service requirements to female citizens ages 18-26.

We strongly support the heroic, capable, and honorable women who chose and will choose to serve our country in the military. They play a vital role in our national defense. However, this issue centers around whether or not women are to be **forced** to register to serve in tip-of-spear combat roles should our nation reinstate the draft. Patriotic women throughout history have served our nation in a diverse range of roles both in the military and as civilians. Forcing them to serve in combat against their will is a deep departure in U.S. policy.

Our military's sole purpose is to protect our nation, not to serve as this administration's laboratory for social engineering. Peak childbearing years for women continue to be cited<sup>1</sup> at 20-35, an age range in line with the 18-26 age group affected by this policy that ignores basic biology. We firmly believe in the equality of men and women, but that does not require us to ignore the physical differences and unique risks to women in combat, particularly in the case of capture.

There are exceptional women who are capable of meeting or exceeding the combat standards put forth by each branch. We support them as we do all individuals willing to put their lives on the line for the greatest nation in the history of the world. However, the female draft discussion should revolve around combat readiness, efficiency, and national security, and weeding through applicants that are overwhelmingly biologically unable to meet combat standards would be a logistical nightmare and would force the lowering of combat standards. The capabilities of these rare women should not mean all appropriately aged women are involuntarily eligible for combat.

Perhaps the greatest threat to our national security is radical Islamic terrorism. Radical Islamists view women as less than men (1/4 in a court of law) and as property. The torture, repeated rape, and humiliation that would face female POWs would be unthinkable. Women who understand these risks and who bravely choose to serve regardless are different from women who are chosen to serve based on the day they were born.

Women are not clamoring for this "opportunity." Only 15 percent of our active-duty military forces are women.<sup>2</sup> We find it demeaning to suggest that women who have instead chosen to serve our nation in other civilian roles — such as manufacturing, commerce, medicine or even caring for their children — are not contributing to our nation. They are indeed!

Finally, we are very proud of the many ways women serve our nation, including those who have chosen to do so in uniform. We strongly suggest that it is wrongheaded for the Senate to adopt the left's view of equality which ignores facts in favor of feelings. It is for these reasons we ask for your support of Sen. Lee's amendment.

Sincerely,

Penny Young Nance  
CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America  
Legislative Action Committee

Cathi Herrod  
President  
Center for Arizona Policy

Daniel B. Briggs  
Legal Counsel, Director of Military Affairs  
Alliance Defending Freedom

Dr. Ron Crews  
CH (COL) USAR Retired  
Executive Director, Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty

Ralph Reed  
Founder and Chairman  
Faith and Freedom Coalition

Gary Bauer  
President  
American Values

Eunie Smith  
Acting President  
Eagle Forum

The Honorable Michelle Bachmann  
Fmr. U.S. Representative  
Minnesota-06

Sabrina Schaeffer  
Executive Director  
Independent Women's Voice  
Kate O'Beirne

Fmr. Commissioner  
Presidential Commission on Women  
in the Armed Forces

Mike Farris, J.D., L.L.M.  
Chairman  
Homeschool Legal Defense Association

Kay Daly  
CPAC Ronald Reagan Award Recipient

Quin Hillyer  
Veteran conservative columnist

Lew Uhler  
President  
National Tax Limitation Committee

Rev. Dean Nelson  
Chairman  
Frederick Douglass Foundation

Dr. Jim Garlow  
Pastors Rapid Response Team

Michael Bowman  
Co-Chairman  
Coalition for a Strong America

Stephani Scruggs  
Co-Chairman  
Coalition for a Strong America

Gene Valentino  
Chairman  
Citizens for a Just Cause

Susan Carleson  
President  
American Civil Rights Union

Jim Backlin  
Christian Coalition of America

Ted Baehr  
Publisher

Andresen Blom  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Christian Coalition

Mark J. Fitzgibbons  
President of Corporate Affairs  
American Target Advertising, Inc.

Thomas P. Kilgannon  
President  
Freedom Alliance

Morton Blackwell  
Chairman  
The Weyrich Lunch

Robert D. Thompson, Administrator  
The Weyrich Lunch

Mona Charen  
Columnist  
Ethics & Public Policy Center

Mary Eberstadt  
Writer

Mary Ellen Bork  
Writer

Dr. Abigail Thernstrom  
Adjunct Scholar  
American Enterprise Institute

Dr. Daphne Patai  
Professor

Jean Lewis

Elaine Donnelly  
President, Center for Military Readiness

Gerrye Johnston  
Founder/CEO  
Women for Democracy in America, Inc.

Richard A. Viguerie  
Chairman  
Conservative HQ.com

Patricia Del'Marmol  
Area Director – CWA of California North  
Roseville, CA

Kori Peterson  
Area Director – CWA of California – South  
Borrego Springs, CA

Terri Johannessen  
State Director CWA of Florida  
Winter Park, FL

Tamara Scott  
State Director CWA of Iowa  
Norwalk, IA

Tanya Ditty  
State Director CWA of Georgia  
Marietta, GA

Barbara J. Ferraro  
State Director CWA of Hawaii  
Pahoa, HI

Debbie Leininger  
State Director CWA of Illinois  
Freeport, IL

Barbara Saldivar  
State Director - CWA of Kansas  
Topeka, KS

Nedra Epps  
Associate Director CWA of Louisiana  
Carencro, LA

Sancha Haysbert-Smith  
State Director CWA of Louisiana  
Opelousas, LA

Penny Morrell  
State Director CWA of Maine

Bev Ehlen  
State Director, CWA of Missouri  
Warrenton, MO

Haven Howard  
Area Director, CWA of Missouri - South  
Branson, MO

Sherry Kuttenkuler  
Area Director CWA of Missouri  
Central Tipton, MO

Linda K. Laird  
Area Director CWA of Missouri  
North New London, MO

Jill Noble  
Area Director  
CWA of Missouri - Kansas City

Kari Zeier  
State Director, CWA of Montana  
Billings, MT

Mary Frances Forrester  
Associate State Director, CWA of North Carolina

Sheri Miller  
State Director CWA of North Carolina  
Charlotte, NC

Linda Thorson  
State Director – CWA of Montana  
Edinburg, ND

Tonya Shellnutt  
State Director CWA of South Carolina  
Rock Hill, SC

Linda Schauer  
State Director CWA of South Dakota  
Leola, SD

Rose Cabrera  
Area Director – CWA of Texas El Paso

El Paso, TX

Ann Hettinger  
State Director CWA of Texas  
Rockwall, TX

Dana Hodges  
Associate Director CWA of Texas  
Orange, TX

Beverly Uhlmer Roberts  
Area Director CWA of Texas - South  
Houston, TX

Mary Smith  
Area Director CWA of Texas – North  
Arlington, TX

Melady Thompson  
Area Director CWA of Texas East  
Winnsboro, TX

Ann Robeson  
State Director CWA of Virginia  
Yorktown, VA

Maureen Richardson  
State Director CWA of Washington  
Woodinville, WA

Bonnie Dougherty  
Retired Military

Mary Smart, Captain, USN  
Retired Military

Lt. Col. Terri Jorgenson USAFR  
Retired Military

## ENDNOTES

---

<sup>1</sup> “Best age for childbearing remains 20-35 - Delaying risks heartbreak, say experts,” *Medical News Today*, September 16, 2005, accessed at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/30737.php>, May 18, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> “See Women’s Progress in the U.S. Military,” *Time Magazine*, September 8, 2015, accessed at <http://labs.time.com/story/women-in-military/> on May 18, 2016.