

John S. Huyler, Jr.

April 19, 2018

Commission on Military, National and Public Service

Dear Commissioners:

I am honored to be able to submit this letter. Thank you for your service.

Undoubtedly, although you may have been nominated or encouraged by others, each of you has volunteered to serve as a Commissioner because you hope "to ignite a national conversation around service and, ultimately, develop recommendations that will encourage every American to be inspired and eager to serve." Thank you for taking this on.

My years as a Naval Aviator and parent of a Millennial have inspired me to synthesize two recommendations that I am particularly grateful to be able to submit so near to the beginning of your three years of work.


- 1) the "ethos of service among American youth" that you seek can only be achieved through a non-coercive system that includes women (the majority of the population), and,
- 2) your focus must give equal standing to the three types of service that are reflected in your title: "military, national and public."

In Colorado, as in the majority of States, young men are automatically registered with the Selective Service as part of their applications for drivers' licenses at age 18. The current system is coercive because of its penalties for not registering and the lack of any choice about the kind of service to which each young man is then subject.

Currently, military service is not mandatory because there is no military draft. In today's registration process other forms of "national and public" service such as AmeriCorps, Teach for America and the Peace Corps are not even considered. And young women are excluded.

I have no doubt that a broader and less coercive approach would produce much better servants of the common good; that the ranks of the military would be adequately filled (as they are now); and that an ethos of public service would be advanced much more effectively by replacing the outdated Selective Service system with one designed according to the two recommendations above.

Respectfully submitted,


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Please deliver to Mark Gearan - Thanks

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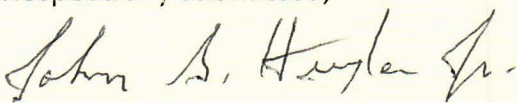
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Sorry you couldn't come

the Colorado session. My wife and I both graduated from the KSG in '79. Here are the remarks I prepared in advance for today's public session.

Please feel free to contact me by email or both of us (DeAnne Butterfield) by phone. The number on the ^{and me} letterhead is our home number. We're both deeply dedicated to public service.

Good luck with this important work.

John Huyler

P.S. The public session here was well done. Thank you!