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new progressive alliance

NewProgs.org

September 15, 2018

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service
Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box No. 63
Arlington, VA 22202

The New Progressive Alliance at <http://newprogs.org/> thanks you for taking comments on this important area.

I speak as a retired US Navy commander who served on active duty and in the reserves from 1981 through 2001. Though the draft had been discontinued by the time of my service, many judges gave people found guilty of miscellaneous crimes the choice of jail or joining the armed services. I can assure you these judges did us no favors. The men became administrative burdens either because they were not educated or intelligent enough to perform their duties or because they lacked motivation to work independently and required constant supervision. Forcing people into the modern armed services creates more problems than it solves.

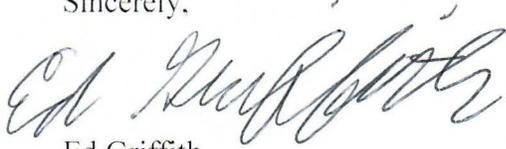
Certainly there is a legal problem in only drafting men; however drafting women as well as men is not the answer. It will have the same problem of bringing in unmotivated people which will be an administrative burden. The modern armed services need capable motivated people and cannot be babysitters for the uneducated and unmotivated.

Registering for a military draft is no longer a necessary component of U.S. national security. Right now it is not even enforced. Having a law that is not enforced or taken seriously has costs of its own.

Does service have inherent value? I think perhaps it does, but to work there must be a national consensus that the service apply to everybody. Such a consensus is severely lacking right now. There is not now even a non-military alternative available for those who are motivated and qualified.

The volunteer military has succeeded without the need for a draft. Keeping the draft for men or extending it for women would be counterproductive. Trying to impose a national requirement for service before there is a clear consensus on national service will be even more divisive for our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ed Griffith

New Progressive Alliance

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