



Center for Military Readiness



Promoting high standards and sound priorities for our military men and women.

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House, Senate Should Drop “Draft America’s Daughters” Language From Defense Authorization Bills

*Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) has just inserted into the Senate defense bill legislation to register and potentially draft young women for military service under **Selective Service** law. The measure [reportedly](#) is comparable to a controversial “Draft America’s Daughters” amendment to the **House** version of the **NDAA (HR 4909)**, which the **Armed Services Committee** narrowly approved on April 27. [\(32-30\)](#) The following comments may be attributed to Elaine Donnelly, President of the Center for Military Readiness:*

“People who support both women and military readiness will be surprised and disappointed to know that behind closed doors, **Senate Armed Services Chairman Sen. John McCain** (R-AZ) deliberately slipped into the Senate version of the **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** damaging legislation to impose **Selective Service** obligations, including a possible future draft, on unsuspecting girls-next-door.

“There is no justification for Chairman McCain sponsoring legislation comparable to the House bill’s “Draft America’s Daughters” measure. It is even worse that Chairman McCain has done this without any public examination or hearings on the irreversible impact on national security as well as young women.

“Serious military concerns, briefly [summarized here](#), explain why thoughtless legislation to **Draft America’s Daughters** must be dropped from both the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act.

“Contrary to a [bill summary](#) issued by Chairman McCain’s office, there are many compelling justifications for retaining women’s exemption from Selective Service obligations. This is the case even under the administration’s current mandates for

minimally-qualified servicewomen to serve in direct ground combat units such as the infantry.

“In a future national emergency that is beyond the capability of our depleted **All-Volunteer Force**, any call-up of men would have to include equal numbers of women. Scarce time and resources would be wasted culling thousands of civilian women, just to find the few who might be minimally qualified for the combat arms (not support units), where the need is greatest.

“The resulting clogged-up process would create a political crisis and a paralyzing administrative overload that would weaken our armed forces at the worst possible time — while America is under attack.

“The McCain law to draft America’s daughters, if signed by lame-duck **President Barack Obama**, also would disregard the substantial body of **Marine Corps** research findings that justify women’s exemptions from direct ground combat units as well as Selective Service obligations. **Truth remains true even though the Obama Administration ignored it.**

“Furthermore, legislation to draft women or to force them into government-mandated **‘National Service’** is unnecessary as well as unwise. Patriotic women have always volunteered for military service and will do so again.

“Senator McCain should reconsider and withdraw his misguided amendment. If he chooses not to do so, voters will decide whether he and other members of the Senate truly support uniformed women and military readiness, or are willing to impose harmful policies on both in the name of politically-correct ‘equality.’”

The following analyses explain why this issue is about national security, not women’s rights:

Two-page Summary: [Congress Should Overrule House Committee Vote for “Draft America’s Daughters” Amendment](#)

More detailed information:

- **CMR:** [House, Senate Should Defeat “Draft America’s Daughters” Legislation](#)
- **CMR Policy Analysis:** [Women, War, and Selective Service](#)

To arrange an interview with Elaine Donnelly, call **734/464-9430**.

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