United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 2016

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Thornberry, and Ranking Member Smith:

We, the undersigned, request your consideration on a matter of great importance as you prepare for conference negotiations on the FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

As you know, the Senate-passed bill includes language that would, for the first time, require women to register for the Selective Service. We believe it is better to refrain from this expansion and to instead, task an independent commission to study the purpose and utility of the Selective Service System, specifically determining whether the current system is unneeded, if it is sufficient, or if it needs an expanded pool of potential draftees.

We should not hinder the brave men and women of our armed forces by entrapping them in unnecessary cultural issues. Our all-volunteer military is the best military the world has ever seen, and women who wish to serve in this military are free to do so. The provision of the FY17 NDAA requiring women to register for the Selective Service should be removed

We respectfully ask that you remain mindful of our opposition as you negotiate the final conference product. Specifically, we urge you to adopt the House position.

Sincerely,

BEN SASSE
United States Senator

ORRIN HATCH
United States Senator

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

PAT ROBERTS
United States Senator

JAMES INHOFE
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator

TED CRUZ
United States Senator

STEVE DAINES
United States Senator

JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator

JAMES LANKFORD
United States Senator

MIKE LEE
United States Senator

JERRY MORAN
United States Senator

DAVID PERDUE
United States Senator

JAMES RISCH
United States Senator

TIM SCOTT
United States Senator

ROGER WICKER
United States Senator