

- While it might be said that the barriers to military service are issues such as a lack of awareness of the requirement to register or a physical disability, barriers may also include matters of conscience, for example being required to serve in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, endangered health, changes in family, personal necessities, development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault, statistically higher chances for becoming suicidal, and violation of personal life philosophies.
- All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to public education, health care, infrastructure, and fulfilling the needs of a modern society.

We have observed the commission closely and are deeply concerned about what the commission may recommend to the US Congress in 2020. In April 2019, Truth in Recruitment members Kate Connell, TIR director and parent of two draft age young adults; Arianna Standish, University of California at Berkeley student; and Callum Standish, Castro Valley, California high school student, traveled to Washington D.C. for the NCMNPS Selective Service Hearings. They made public comment at the hearings: *How to Meet Potential National Mobilization Needs*, on April 24, and *Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans*, on April 25. Previously, on September 20, 2018, Ms. Connell, along with TIR members Joe Asebedo, Marine Corps veteran and Veterans for Peace Ventura Chapter vice president, Michael Cervantes, Veterans for Peace Ventura Chapter president, and Michael Meredith, former educator, traveled to give testimony at the NCMNPS public meeting at the California State University, Los Angeles Campus. We appreciate that the commission has asked to hear from those who are calling for the elimination of the SSS. We believe that these groups represent the voices of the majority of Americans who believe in voluntary service and freedom from compulsion for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Connell, director
Truth in Recruitment
Pronouns: she/her/hers
kate@truthinrecruitment.org
805-708-8058
www.truthinrecruitment.org