

Statement to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service
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I am the Director of the National Coalition to Protect Student Privacy, www.studentprivacy.org a non-profit that works to pass legislation and administrative changes in how states and their various jurisdictions handle the military's request for a wide variety of sensitive student information on under-age youth. I have been working on this issue in all 50 states for 15 years.

Selective Service registration is closely linked to military recruitment, particularly in the nation's high schools. The Selective Service System provides the names of all registrants to the Joint Advertising Marketing Research & Studies (JAMRS) program for inclusion in the JAMRS Consolidated Recruitment Database. The names are distributed to the services for recruiting purposes on a quarterly basis.

I see this as an egregious violation of the 4th Amendment to the Constitution which says in its abbreviated form that "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."

I know from speaking with thousands of parents over the years that many are not happy to learn that their child's personal information is sent to the DOD without their knowledge or consent. The SSS data, when merged with the illegally gathered information from students as a result of the passage of Section 8025 of the "Every Student Succeeds Act," (ESSA), provides the basis from which the DOD builds its database on the nation's youth. Parents must go through hoops to "opt-out" of having their child's private information from being sent to the DOD's recruiting services and the JAMRS system.

Many of us have been fighting a losing battle across the country. To provide a sense of the struggle, we have managed to pass legislation in Maryland that places this so-called opt-out language on the mandatory emergency contact form parents must complete yearly. The form simply asks, "Do you want your child's information sent to military recruiters?"

Overwhelmingly, parents say no. Similarly, the state passed a law almost ten years ago that requires parental consent before children are given the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, (ASVAB) - the military's entrance exam during school hours. That's different than, say, Kentucky which opens a child's entire academic record to military recruiters and requires children in many schools to take the military exam without parental knowledge or consent.

I see the Selective Service System as aiding and abetting this unconstitutional framework. The massive dataset provided by the Selective Service System to neighborhood recruiters provides a starting point for the Pentagon's vicious and unconscionable recruiting program. See my book on this: www.counter-recruit.org

Here it is online:

<http://www.studentprivacy.org/>