

# 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.

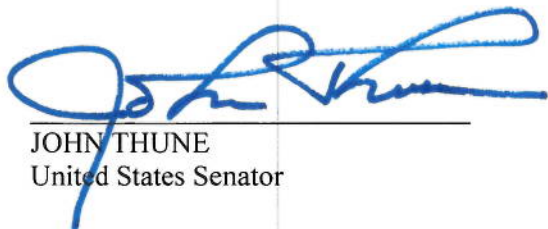
Sincerely,



BEN SASSE  
United States Senator



ORRIN HATCH  
United States Senator



JOHN THUNE  
United States Senator



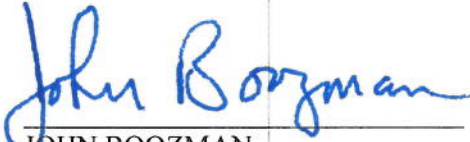
PAT ROBERTS  
United States Senator



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



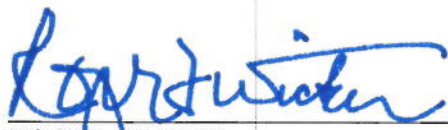
DAVID PERDUE  
United States Senator



JAMES RISCH  
United States Senator



TIM SCOTT  
United States Senator



ROGER WICKER  
United States Senator