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July 19, 2023

# Our Great Country

*“Leadership is about being a servant first.”*

-Allen west

Our president has served our country in more ways than one. His time in the military gave him the unique perspective necessary for leading America into a brighter, better future. This starts with the draft. A key part in his aspirations is our plan for mandatory military service for the duration of one year, for all eligible citizens, before the age of 21. This plan benefits our country in numerous ways, such as ensuring future leaders and politicians serve, presenting job opportunities, and promoting personal growth through life experiences in the youth of America.

The draft will present job opportunities. In serving our country, many young individuals can find their calling in military service, from desk jobs to tactical analysis, to front line action. The skills these people are taught, such as organization, time management, and discipline, will greatly aid them in future pursuits. Retired Commander Joseph Ryan Patterson says “The military provided me with an early opportunity for responsibility and leadership positions. I had to get used to working in uncomfortable situations, and I developed many mentorship relations across the globe. All of these helped me during my transition.” This, and the fact that America has the best military training in the world, further support that the draft benefits our citizens by presenting job opportunities.

The draft will ensure our future leaders serve in the military. Some of the greatest presidents America has ever seen had served in the military, for instance, George Washington,

Ronald Reagan, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. All these Americans made their mark on U.S. history, from forming our very country to all the many ways they improved and preserved it. When the presidents-and-politicians-to-be go through this formative experience, much like our current president, it will provide invaluable insight into the workings of our country, which will aid the decisions they make. This is just another way the draft will promote the well-being of America as a whole.

Next, the draft will promote personal growth through life experiences. Bruce Paterson, who was alive when the draft was active, quotes: "I joined the Marine Corps right out of high school at the ripe old age of 18 and left at age 22. The military, in most cases I believe, speeds up the maturity process. Boot camp challenges you to learn the value of teamwork, and how your part can either help or hinder the team. You are challenged physically mentally and emotionally. Approaching these challenges with a positive attitude helped, a negative attitude hindered. My overseas experience made me more appreciative of my US freedoms that many others did not have but so desperately wished they did. I believe that the foundation formulated in boot camp remains in effect in my life today." Complete brain maturity is reached at age 25, thus his military experience affected his brain in strong and positive ways. This experience is not unique to him and was experienced by many others in his time. Our president wishes to rekindle this through the draft.

Some concerns may be that drafted soldiers may not have as much skill or experience as fully trained soldiers, or that the draft will derail the lives of many young Americans. These are invalid on account of two major reasons. One, America has the best military training system in the world, thus any drafted soldier will be on the same skill level as trained soldiers. As for experience, that is best received through real life interactions and altercations, and it will be

gained throughout the duration of their service. Two, service to our country is hardly a derailment. As Retired U.S Navy Commander James Smuda says, “The draft caused many young men to join the national guard, over being selected for the army.” James Smuda, my grandfather, was alive and eligible when the draft was active, but he signed up for the navy rather than being drafted. Service in the military adds to a fuller, more purposeful life, rather than detracting from it.

In conclusion, the draft will bring America into a better, brighter future through three things. Presenting job opportunities, ensuring our future leaders serve in the military, and promoting personal growth. Today, tomorrow and every day going forward, we must put more emphasis on our responsibilities as citizens, to protect our rights as citizens. Military service, through the draft, gives Americans a sense of pride in our great country.