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### The Necessity of Mandatory Military Service

Since its birth, the United States of America has been a refuge of freedom in a world of injustice. Our country was built around the rights of the individual; our government was established to protect every citizen in the United States. However, there comes a time when citizenship demands more than what its luxuries display. It is stated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that one of the responsibilities of an American citizen is to serve in the military if required. Now, at this point, it has been deemed necessary to require every young American male to serve for at least a year. However, hesitancy toward this decision is expected, so it is the purpose of this document to demonstrate the argument for this newly instated law.

In recent years, the younger generations of America have grown distant from our origin. According to a Fox News article from January 2023, “A recent Morning Consult poll found that only 16 percent of Gen Z’ers are proud to live in the United States. Millennials were only somewhat saner at 36 percent.” This is a problem. If our young, the future of our country, lose sight of our American values, it will lead to the dissolution of what the United States is at its core. A quote from an interview with U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Bob Zmuda, resonates with a similar sentiment. He supports this new law: “I believe serving your country should be an absolute requirement for every 18-24 year old, and if they want to stay longer, they can. It would develop more of an outward gratification of what this country is.” It is as John F. Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.” This is what the youth of America needs; to aid their country to understand what it stands for and why. Therefore, as this generation enters the military and is obligated to serve America, as President Kennedy said, in due time, they will come to appreciate their country with a new perspective.

However, many may find this law extreme, as there are other ways to serve the United States and its citizens. An interview with Larry Hochstatter, who watched many of his friends get drafted into the military to fight in Vietnam during the 1960s, clearly portrays this attitude. He stated, "I think the same age group, 18-24, should register for community options, and they'd give you options... Maybe you could work at a hospital in a rural community, or maybe you could be in the Peace Corps, or you could join the army if you want, but you give a certain amount of time for the good of your country. It would give everyone a stake in their country, a personal stake, and I think people would look at their country a lot differently." While this opinion has merit, it is clear that military service is necessary, and that no other form of service will suffice in displaying the values of this country to the younger generations. A certain respect is implanted in every individual who completes military service. As said by Bob Zmuda, "In the military, when you are sworn in, you're sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States, you're sworn to defend America, and that never goes away." In military service lies the key to the reverence of the United States, its goals, its values, and its freedoms, and no other duty can replicate that.

Despite this, the largest obstacle to overcome is the predicament of money. According to USA Facts, in 2022, the government had a total revenue of \$5.03 trillion, but spend a total of \$6.48 trillion, leaving a \$1.45 trillion deficit. Of the amount spent in 2022, a total of \$1.03 trillion was spent on National Defense and veterans, which is 16% of total government spending. \$759.8 billion was spent on National Defense with the other \$271.3 billion spent on veterans. Additionally, the amount of money allocated to veterans has exponentially increased over the years, despite the decrease in total veterans. Now, this is a bigger issue, one largely due to inflation and debt, which cannot be solved overnight. Therefore, According to the Centers for

Disease Control, there were 3,664,292 births in America during 2021. Additionally, according to TradingEconomics.com, “Sex ratio at birth (male births per female births) in the United States was reported at 1.048 in 2021” This means approximately 1,850,000 males will be joining the military each year. According to Military.com, “In 2023, an enlisted service member with a paygrade of E-1 will receive an estimated \$1,917.63 per month in basic pay.” This means the government will be spending an extra \$42.6 million a year, plus inflation, on the military. However, in comparison to the total amount spent per year on National Defense and veterans, this is not an implausible number. Our military will just be prioritized more in terms of spending. Furthermore, reforms to pensions for future veterans must be put into place, to prevent an accumulation of debt.

In conclusion, in order to raise a generation of citizens who fully understand the values and ideals of America, it has been decided that one year of military service is to be required for every American male must complete one year of military service before the age of 22. This will give each individual a new outlook on what it means to be a U.S. citizen and a new sense of patriotism.