

“The whole Nation must be a team, in which each man shall play the part for which he is best fitted.” Woodrow Wilson, 1917. The current President has indicated that he will instate a requirement of one year of military service for all males between 18 and 21 years of age, due to concerns over the wellbeing of the United States and her allies, and the growing threats of her enemies. This is not a draft as it has no random chance of service. It is simply forced military service. The draft was last in effect in 1973.

Both Russia and China have begun to overtly threaten the United States in recent years, both in political rhetoric and in the accumulation of weapons and growth of their armies. The war in Ukraine has showed that, although they are not always the most competent of foes, Russia has a propensity to violence, making them dangerous to other countries around the world. If Russia were to win in Ukraine and attack a NATO country, the U.S. would be dragged into war. China has also been amassing strength. They have been increasing in opposition to free countries and their operations, leading to many dangers in the economic world as well as the political. The threat they pose to Taiwan could lead to a lack of microchips, which the Military requires for the operation of much of its equipment.

To protect from these threats, our country will be increasing the size of its military. With about six million men between 18 and 21 around two million will enlist a year. The military currently enlists 1.4 million. With its added members, its size would more than double. The branches of the military will require time to prepare for such an increase in personnel but should be ready shortly.

This policy would benefit the nation as a whole, but it would also benefit its individuals. The men will take much from their experiences. They will learn discipline and many skills that will transfer into the private sector and into their whole lives. They will earn respect for themselves and for their institutions. They will develop the traits that make them men and will go forward with new vigor and confidence. Many men will stay with their enlistment after their one-year requirement when they realize the benefits of service in the military, which will lead to an overall increase in the size of the military and an increase in the military readiness of the men who discontinue their service.

As in times past, those who do not wish to participate in the violent aspects of service (i.e., conscientious objectors) will not be forced to. The conscientious objectors and those who are injured or disabled will serve in ways their physical abilities and their beliefs allow. One

important way that they will be able to serve is by defending their country from cyberthreats, from within the country and without.

Some see the draft as a form of slavery. Though the proposed policy is not a draft, the President's policy will face similar objections. Forced labor is not always slavery, for example, schooling is not considered slavery, though it forces the participation of every individual for nine years, to the benefit of the individual and the nation as a whole. One year of compulsory military service would likewise benefit the individuals and the country as a whole.

This protection is not without costs. A military that is no longer completely voluntary is more expensive. With more men to take care of, it requires pay for the troops, as well as supplies, equipment, and lodging for them. Yet the safety and security of the country and the free world make such a cost necessary. The cost of training these men is still much less than the cost of not being prepared for engagement in the future.

Some hold that a short military service is not worth the cost of training troops, due to how little time they will be useful after they have completed training. If future evaluations show it to be necessary, the exact requirements of service may change. The United States will not be alone in forced military service, as Israel and Switzerland already have similar policies.

Many citizens are in support of such a policy. When asked his thoughts about the policy, Dave McConeghey approved of its equality, "Any person from every economic background would be forced to participate." Another man, Mike Haberkorn, said, "I think it would be a great idea, national service of some kind, in the military or some other venue." Both of these men had registered for the draft when it was still in effect.

Due to risks of external threats, and to the benefit of our country and its citizens, the president has made his decision. For the sake of duty to this free and great country, we send these brave men to serve the United States of America.