
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 944 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, WATSON AND
DONATUCCI, JUNE 27, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 27, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to amend the Military
2 Selective Service Act to require both men and women to
3 register for the draft.

4 WHEREAS, Women served the United States Army during the
5 American Revolution, nursing ill and wounded soldiers, mending
6 clothing and cooking for the troops; and

7 WHEREAS, Women have served the United States Armed Forces in
8 some capacity during every military conflict in our nation's
9 history; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to their recognized role in the armed
11 forces during every military conflict, women have had de facto
12 involvement in combat situations while being officially banned
13 from combat; and

14 WHEREAS, For most of the early history of the United States
15 military, women primarily served in clerical or military medical
16 support services roles; and

17 WHEREAS, Women's formal military service began when the
18 Congress of the United States established the Army Nurse Corps

1 in 1901 and the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908; and

2 WHEREAS, World War II compelled Congress to provide for
3 additional, extremely limited service roles due to the urgent
4 need for manpower; and

5 WHEREAS, In the latter half of the 20th century, social
6 change spurring the end of the military draft and the beginning
7 of an all-volunteer force as well as the equal rights movement
8 led to increased integration of the United States Armed Forces;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In more than a decade of war in Iraq and
11 Afghanistan, more than 225,000 women have served with courage,
12 skill and patriotism; and

13 WHEREAS, One hundred fifty-two women in uniform have died
14 while serving our nation; and

15 WHEREAS, Women currently make up more than 15% of the active-
16 duty personnel in the United States Armed Forces; and

17 WHEREAS, Women are integral to the ability of the Department
18 of Defense to fulfill its mission; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Defense announced the
20 end of the direct ground combat exclusion rule for female
21 service members in January 2013 following a unanimous
22 recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

23 WHEREAS, That decision opens up approximately 237,000
24 positions to women, including 184,000 in combat arms professions
25 and 53,000 assignments that were closed based on unit type, and
26 ensures that the most qualified and most capable service members
27 are available to carry out the mission regardless of gender; and

28 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense has further directed that
29 military service branches evaluate all occupational performance
30 standards to ensure that the standards are up-to-date and

1 gender-neutral as part of a plan to eliminate unnecessary
2 gender-based barriers to service; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon full implementation of the policy, military
4 occupations will be closed to women only by exception and only
5 if approved by the Secretary of Defense; and

6 WHEREAS, The Military Selective Service Act requires every
7 male citizen of the United States and every other male person
8 residing in the United States between 18 and 26 years of age to
9 register with the Selective Service; and

10 WHEREAS, Full equality for women in the United States Armed
11 Forces should begin with gender-neutral military selective
12 service registration; and

13 WHEREAS, Gender-neutral selective service, one of the few
14 subjects in the current polarized political climate having
15 bipartisan congressional support, is included in a defense
16 authorization bill under consideration; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
19 States to amend the Military Selective Service Act to require
20 both men and women to register for the draft; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the
22 President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
23 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
24 Pennsylvania.