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Office of U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn <donotreply@blackburn.senate.gov> Fri, Sep 10, 2021, 8:34 AM

to me

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United States Senate

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September 10, 2021

Dear B. Nathaniel,

Thank you for contacting me regarding women registering for Selective Service. I always appreciate hearing from Tennesseans.

The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the U.S. Federal Government and the sole source of conscripted talent for national security in the event of a national emergency. Should such an emergency occur, a separate authorization for a national draft would be considered, debated, and passed by the Congress. The most recent draft authority expired in 1973.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), as passed by the Senate Armed Services Committee, includes a provision that authorizes all Americans to register for the Selective Service, rectifying the current practice of categorically not considering one-half of the U.S. population in a time of national need for public service. This provision does not authorize a draft, nor force any individuals into combat roles.

Thank you for your thoughtful comments on this issue. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, you can be assured I will keep your thoughts in mind when the NDAA is considered by the full Senate.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. If you would like regular updates on my work for Tennessee, please sign up for my weekly newsletter or follow me on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Sincerely,

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator