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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4313

December 3, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Rogers and Ranking Member Inhofe,

As we consider the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022, I urge you to remove any provision that requires young women to register for Selective Service.

The NDAA is the most important legislation that Congress passes each year because it provides our men and women in uniform with the equipment and resources they need to protect our nation against threats around the world. Supporting our military by passing an annual defense bill is a fundamental duty of Congress. This has happened each year for six decades, and I am looking forward to being part of that tradition this year and working with each of you to complete consideration of the FY22 NDAA in a timely manner.

There should be a clear focus with the NDAA to improve our military. This bill should help us compete with, and deter, adversaries like China, Russia, and Iran. However, including a provision that requires women to register for Selective Service would be troublesome and would do nothing to improve military readiness. This provision serves only as a way for some members of Congress to message that they are pro-equality. In reality, this is a very dangerous provision which most Americans oppose, especially in my home district, the Thirteenth Congressional District of Texas.

Every single American has a duty to defend our nation regardless of gender, race, or religious belief. I proudly served in our military for nearly three decades, and some of the finest service members I served with were women, however there is absolutely no scenario in which it would make sense for a draft to include women. As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I strongly urge you to remove this troublesome provision requiring women to register

for Selective Service. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if there is any further explanation required or anything I can do to help remove this provision.

Sincerely,



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress