
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 63 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY GIRAL, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, D. WILLIAMS AND BURGOS,
APRIL 3, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 3, 2023

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 the recognized role of women in the
11 armed forces during every military conflict, women have had de
12 facto involvement in combat situations while being officially
13 banned 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 the Congress of the United
3 States to provide for additional, extremely limited service
4 roles due to the urgent 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, along with the equal rights movement,
8 led to increased integration of the United States Armed Forces;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In the more than a decade of war in Iraq and
11 Afghanistan, more than 300,000 women served with courage, skill
12 and patriotism; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 152 women in uniform have died while
14 serving our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan; 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, The decision to end the direct ground combat
24 exclusion rule opened approximately 237,000 positions to women,
25 including 184,000 combat arms professions and 53,000 assignments
26 that had been closed based on unit type; and

27 WHEREAS, This has ensured that the most qualified and most
28 capable service members are available to carry out the mission
29 regardless of gender; and

30 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense has further directed that

1 military service branches evaluate all occupational performance
2 standards to ensure that they are up to date and gender neutral
3 as part of a plan to eliminate unnecessary gender-based barriers
4 to service; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Full equality for women in the United States Armed
13 Forces should begin with gender-neutral Selective Service System
14 registration; therefore be it

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

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