
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 77 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, McCLINTON,
CALTAGIRONE, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, MURT AND NEILSON,
FEBRUARY 11, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

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

1 Congress of the United States established the Army Nurse Corps
2 in 1901 and the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908; and

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, More than 152 women in uniform have died while
15 serving our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, The decision to end the direct ground combat
25 exclusion rule opened approximately 237,000 positions to women,
26 including 184,000 combat arms professions and 53,000 assignments
27 that had been closed based on unit type; and

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

1 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense has further directed that
2 military service branches evaluate all occupational performance
3 standards to ensure that they are up to date and gender neutral
4 as part of a plan to eliminate unnecessary gender-based barriers
5 to service; and

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

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

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

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

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