

**A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

**MIDWAY COLONY, INC.  
BOX 582  
6049 HEALY SPRING RD  
CONRAD, MT 59425  
406-278-5278**

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft.

First, to be clear, we realize that government is ordained by God (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our government as Christ taught us (Matthew 22.21), "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So we pay taxes & obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's". We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage.

We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass.

However, woman's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts, (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a

strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society.

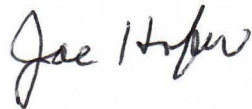
Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women.

Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator.

We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between “giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's” and “giving to God the things that are God's”. We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services.

Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Hutter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hutterian Brethren

**A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

45545 242nd St  
Madison, SD 57042  
April 18, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

*Nathaniel Hofer*

Hutterian Brethren

**A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the  
National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service**

6189 170th St. N  
Hawley, MN 56549  
April 18, 2018

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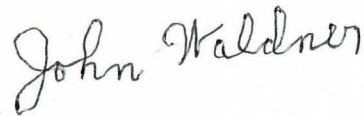
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Waldner".

Hutterian Brethren

A Petition  
from the  
Hutterian Brethren  
to the

National Commission on Military, National, & Public Service

15185 346. th. Ave

Faulkton S.D.

57438, 5204.

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11. 29. 2019.

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Sincerely,

*Rev. Michael Waldner*

Hutterian Brethren