

**April 18, 2018**

**Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) Peace, Earthcare, and Social Concerns committee** considered the questions on the website of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service, including Selective Service System (SSS) registration and the rights of Conscientious Objectors (COs).

Here are thoughts for your consideration:

- There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. SSS registration should be discontinued.
- If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as a Conscientious Objector.
- Penalties for noncompliance should be proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disabilities, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.
- In regard to Question 4. *What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?* - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies.
- The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.