

Should all U.S citizens between the ages of 18 and 25, regardless of gender, be required to register for the Selective Service System?

All citizens between the ages of 18 and 25, regardless of gender should be required to register for the Selective Service System. Discriminating against women in the military draft enforces harmful gender stereotypes and, not including women in the draft puts to waste the talents they have to offer.

Not requiring women to register for the Selective Service System enforces harmful stereotypes. One stereotype is that women need to be protected. According to Dr. Joseph Heck, “the biggest piece of opposition was, we are not going to draft our mother and daughters, our sisters and aunts to fight in hand-to-hand combat” (Mervosh & Ismay, 2020). Our mothers, daughters, sisters, and aunts do not need to be protected. They are very much capable of fighting for our country just like men are as they are already seen in the military. Another stereotype that this enforces is that women are not as capable as men are. According to the civil rights act, when hiring, employers must not discriminate based on sex (Civil Rights Act of 1964). This act implies that women are equally as capable in performing the duties required of any job. The military is no exception to this. These stereotypes are untrue, which is why all U.S citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 should be required to register for the Selective Service System.

Not requiring women to register for the Selective Service System puts to waste the talents and skills that women have to offer. Debra Wada, a former assistant secretary for the Army, said, “If the threat is to our very existence, wouldn’t you want women as part of that group?” (Mervosh & Ismay, 2020). If women are not required to register for the Selective Service System, then the United States is losing out on half of 18- to 25-year-olds that can offer a multitude of skills. Also, women have been involved in the military for a long time and they have and continue to play a pivotal role in the military. The women that have made such an impact are those that volunteered to join the military. Imagine what they could accomplish if they were required to register. All citizens in the United States between the ages of 18 and 25 should be required to register for the Selective Service System because they all bring with them skills and qualities that would prove useful to the military.

All citizens of the United States should be required to register for the Selective Service System. They bring so much to the table and the military is willingly not utilizing the many talents they have to offer. Discriminating against women in this way reinforces harmful and untrue stereotypes that are the reason why women are not required to register.