

The House Armed Services Committee approved the proposal by a 35-24 vote, with support from all Democrats and several Republicans on the panel. Supporters said the time to include women in cases of national emergency is long overdue.

“The current male-only registration sends a message to women not only that they are not vital to the defense of the country, but also that they are not expected to participate in defending it,” said Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., an Air Force veteran and author of the amendment. “It also sends a message to men that they, for some reason, are uniquely and perhaps unfairly depended upon. This needs to change.”

Senate lawmakers included similar language in their draft of the annual defense authorization bill, making it likely that some version of the proposal will remain in the final compromise draft of the legislation.

The authorization bill — which includes items such as the annual military pay raise and specialty pay authorizations — has passed each year for more than five decades.

Currently only men between the ages of 18 and 25 are required to register for potential conscription in the event of a prolonged war. The new rules would include women on those lists too.

“Whatever the emergency is, if it’s so great that we have to go to a draft, we need everybody,” said Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla. and an Army veteran. “We need men, women, gay, straight, any religion, black, white, brown. We need all hands on deck.”

The idea of requiring women to participate in the draft has been considered in the budget bill debate in the past, including in 2016, when lawmakers established a commission to research the idea.

Last year, the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service offered its recommendation that women be included in potential draft lists, given the military’s prior decision to open all combat posts to women. That had been the legal basis for excluding women from conscription in the past.

Despite that, in June the Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to the men-only rule, saying a final decision was more appropriately left to Congress.

Conservatives on the committee objected to the idea, saying that the move upends traditional gender roles and is not urgently needed, given military commanders’ past stated preference for the all-volunteer force.

“I feel confident in an emergency that the women of this country would step up and volunteer as needed,” said Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo. “This current system does not fence off anyone .. It seems like this is a solution in search of a problem.”

But women rights advocates have argued for the change, saying inequitable treatment affects social perceptions of men and women.

Under the current system, if men fail to register for a possible draft, they can face criminal penalties and be ruled ineligible for federal loans and other benefits. Women do not face such punishment.

The full defense authorization bill is expected to be voted on by the full House later this month. A compromise version of the measure is expected to be finalized and set to the president later this fall.

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2. Click on either VA Blue Button Report or VA Health Summary. You can choose either or both.
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3. Sign in with your preferred account: My HealtheVet, DS Logon, or ID.me. If you don't have one of these accounts, you can [create a verified ID.me account](#) now.
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- If you have trouble signing in to your account: [Read our frequently asked questions about signing in to VA.gov](#).
- If your health records are missing: It can take up to 36 hours for new health records to appear. This gives your health care provider time to discuss results with you first.
- If your information isn't accurate: Call our MyVA411 main information line at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: 711). You can also ask a staff member a VA health facility near you for help. [Find a VA health facility near you](#).
- If you get an "unreadable data" message: This means the connected app has access to your information but doesn't use it in its interface. This is nothing to worry about. If you have questions about this, send feedback directly to the app.

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Employment Resources for Transitioning Military and Veterans

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Lakesha Green was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1979 and grew up with two brothers. She was active in her youth; dancing, playing basketball and practicing martial arts. After graduating from high school in 1997, Green enrolled in the Job Corps to receive vocational training. In 1998, inspired by the military service of her grandfather and uncle, she enlisted in the military. Initially, she joined the Army Reserve, but then transferred to the Army National Guard.

In 1999, Green reported to Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, where she completed basic training, and shortly afterward, finished food service specialist training. Green served in Vilseck, Germany, in 2002 and was part of a quick reaction force. In an interview with the Library of Congress [Veterans History Project](#), Green stated her role was to “look for terrorists or anything out of the ordinary.” She returned to the U.S. in 2003.

Green went to Hammond, Louisiana in 2005, where she helped with humanitarian relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. While there, she helped protect resources, such as food and water, making sure they reached people in need.

In 2009, Green deployed to Iraq during [Operation Iraqi Freedom](#) with the 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment. While in Iraq, Green earned a Combat Action Badge and a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service as a food operations sergeant. She returned to the U.S. in September 2009.

After returning from Iraq, Green joined the Warrior Transitional Brigade located at Fort Meade, Maryland, to recuperate from her experiences. In 2011, Green left the Army National Guard. Later, she worked in an internship with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the latter of which hired her as a records management assistant.

When asked by the [Veterans History Project](#) what she would like people to take from her story, Green said, “be comfortable with who you are, don’t be ashamed. Do what you feel is right.”



Verse of the Day

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 KJV

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Our monthly meetings are on hold until the pandemic is cleared and a vaccine is developed. No meetings are being held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

William A. Harris, Jr.

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired
President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.
www.veteransforchristinc.org

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