To require all persons in the United States between the ages of 18 and 25 to perform national service, either as a member of the uniformed services or in civilian service in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security, to authorize the induction of persons in the uniformed services during wartime to meet end-strength requirements of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 17, 2011

Mr. Rangel (for himself and Mr. Stark) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require all persons in the United States between the ages of 18 and 25 to perform national service, either as a member of the uniformed services or in civilian service in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security, to authorize the induction of persons in the uniformed services during wartime to meet end-strength requirements of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

atives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Universal National Service Act of 2011”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL SERVICE

Sec. 101. Definitions.
Sec. 102. National service obligation.
Sec. 103. Induction to perform national service.
Sec. 104. Two-year period of national service.
Sec. 105. Implementation by the President.
Sec. 106. Examination and classification of persons.
Sec. 107. Deferments and postponements.
Sec. 108. Induction exemptions.
Sec. 109. Conscientious objection.
Sec. 110. Discharge following national service.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

Sec. 201. Registration of females.

TITLE I—NATIONAL SERVICE

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term “contingency operation” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “military service” means service performed as a member of an active or reserve component of the uniformed services.

(3) The term “national service” means military service or service in a civilian capacity that, as determined by the President, promotes the national de-
fense, including national or community service and
service related to homeland security.

(4) The term “Secretary concerned” means the
Secretary of Defense with respect to the Army,
Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, the Secretary
of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast
Guard, the Secretary of Commerce, with respect to
the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
tion, and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
ices, with respect to the Public Health Service.

(5) The term “United States”, when used in a
geographical sense, means the several States, the
District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
lands, and Guam.

(6) The term “uniformed services” means the
Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,
commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and At-
mospheric Administration, and commissioned corps
of the Public Health Service.

SEC. 102. NATIONAL SERVICE OBLIGATION.

(a) Obligation for Service.—It is the obligation
of every citizen of the United States, and every other per-
son residing in the United States, who is between the ages
of 18 and 25 to perform a period of national service as
prescribed in this title unless exempted under the provisions of this title.

(b) FORMS OF NATIONAL SERVICE.—The national service obligation under this title shall be performed either—

(1) as a member of an active or reserve component of the uniformed services; or

(2) in a civilian capacity that, as determined by the President, promotes the national defense, including national or community service and service related to homeland security.

(c) AGE LIMITS.—A person may be inducted under this title only if the person has attained the age of 18 and has not attained the age of 25.

SEC. 103. INDUCTION TO PERFORM NATIONAL SERVICE.

(a) INDUCTION REQUIREMENTS.—The President shall provide for the induction of persons described in section 102(a) to perform their national service obligation.

(b) LIMITATION ON INDUCTION FOR MILITARY SERVICE.—Persons described in section 102(a) may be inducted to perform military service only if—

(1) a declaration of war is in effect;

(2) the President declares a national emergency, which the President determines necessitates the induction of persons to perform military service,
and immediately informs Congress of the reasons for
the declaration and the need to induct persons for
military service; or

(3) members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or
Marine Corps are engaged in a contingency oper-
ation pursuant to a congressional authorization for
the use of military force.

(c) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS INDUCTED
FOR MILITARY SERVICE.—When the induction of persons
for military service is authorized by subsection (B), the
President shall determine the number of persons described
in section 102(a) whose national service obligation is to
be satisfied through military service based on—

   (1) the authorized end strengths of the uni-
   formed services;

   (2) the feasibility of the uniformed services to
   recruit sufficient volunteers to achieve such end-
   strength levels; and

   (3) provide a mechanism for the random selec-
   tion of persons to be inducted to perform military
   service.

(d) SELECTION FOR INDUCTION.—

   (1) RANDOM SELECTION FOR MILITARY SERV-
   ICE.—When the induction of persons for military
   service is authorized by subsection (b), the President
shall utilize a mechanism for the random selection of
persons to be inducted to perform military service.

(2) Random selection for civilian service.—Persons described in section 102(a) who do
not volunteer to perform military service or are not
inducted for military service shall perform their na-
tional service obligation in a civilian capacity pursu-
ant to section 102(b)(2).

(e) Voluntary Service.—A person subject to in-
duction under this title may—

(1) volunteer to perform national service in lieu
of being inducted; or

(2) request permission to be inducted at a time
other than the time at which the person is otherwise
called for induction.

SEC. 104. TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

(a) General Rule.—Except as otherwise provided
in this section, the period of national service performed
by a person under this title shall be two years.

(b) Grounds for Extension.—At the discretion of
the President, the period of military service for a member
of the uniformed services under this title may be ex-
tended—

(1) with the consent of the member, for the
purpose of furnishing hospitalization, medical, or
surgical care for injury or illness incurred in line of
duty; or

(2) for the purpose of requiring the member to
compensate for any time lost to training for any
cause.

(c) EARLY TERMINATION.—The period of national
service for a person under this title shall be terminated
before the end of such period under the following cir-
cumstances:

(1) The voluntary enlistment and active service
of the person in an active or reserve component of
the uniformed services for a period of at least two
years, in which case the period of basic military
training and education actually served by the person
shall be counted toward the term of enlistment.

(2) The admission and service of the person as
a cadet or midshipman at the United States Military
Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the
United States Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard
Academy, or the United States Merchant Marine
Academy.

(3) The enrollment and service of the person in
an officer candidate program, if the person has
signed an agreement to accept a Reserve commission
in the appropriate service with an obligation to serve
on active duty if such a commission is offered upon
completion of the program.

(4) Such other grounds as the President may
establish.

SEC. 105. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall prescribe
such regulations as are necessary to carry out this title.

(b) MATTER TO BE COVERED BY REGULATIONS.—
Such regulations shall include specification of the fol-
lowing:

(1) The types of civilian service that may be
performed in order for a person to satisfy the per-
son’s national service obligation under this title.

(2) Standards for satisfactory performance of
civilian service and of penalties for failure to per-
form civilian service satisfactorily.

(3) The manner in which persons shall be se-
lected for induction under this title, including the
manner in which those selected will be notified of
such selection.

(4) All other administrative matters in connec-
tion with the induction of persons under this title
and the registration, examination, and classification
of such persons.
(5) A means to determine questions or claims with respect to inclusion for, or exemption or deferment from induction under this title, including questions of conscientious objection.

(6) Standards for compensation and benefits for persons performing their national service obligation under this title through civilian service.

(7) Such other matters as the President determines necessary to carry out this title.

(c) USE OF PRIOR ACT.—To the extent determined appropriate by the President, the President may use for purposes of this title the procedures provided in the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.), including procedures for registration, selection, and induction.

SEC. 106. EXAMINATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PERSONS.

(a) EXAMINATION.—Every person subject to induction under this title shall, before induction, be physically and mentally examined and shall be classified as to fitness to perform national service.

(b) DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS.—The President may apply different classification standards for fitness for military service and fitness for civilian service.
SEC. 107. DEFERMENTS AND POSTPONEMENTS.

(a) HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.—A person who is pursing a standard course of study, on a full-time basis, in a secondary school or similar institution of learning shall be entitled to have induction under this title postponed until the person—

(1) obtains a high school diploma;

(2) ceases to pursue satisfactorily such course of study; or

(3) attains the age of 20.

(b) POST SECONDARY STUDENTS.—A person who is pursuing a standard course of study, on a full-time basis, in a university, technical school or similar institution of learning shall be entitled to have induction under this title postponed until the person—

(1) obtains a certificate or diploma;

(2) ceases to pursue satisfactorily such course of study; or

(3) attains the age of 24.

(c) HARDSHIP AND DISABILITY.—Deferments from national service under this title may be made for—

(1) extreme hardship; or

(2) physical or mental disability.

(d) TRAINING CAPACITY.—The President may postpone or suspend the induction of persons for military service under this title as necessary to limit the number of
persons receiving basic military training and education to
the maximum number that can be adequately trained.

(c) TERMINATION.—No deferment or postponement
of induction under this title shall continue after the cause
of such deferment or postponement ceases.

SEC. 108. INDUCTION EXEMPTIONS.

(a) QUALIFICATIONS.—No person may be inducted
for military service under this title unless the person is
acceptable to the Secretary concerned for training and
meets the same health and physical qualifications applica-
ble under section 505 of title 10, United States Code, to
persons seeking original enlistment in a regular compo-
nent of the Armed Forces.

(b) OTHER MILITARY SERVICE.—No person shall be
liable for induction under this title who—

(1) is serving, or has served honorably for at
least six months, in any component of the uniformed
services on active duty; or

(2) is or becomes a cadet or midshipman at the
United States Military Academy, the United States
Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Acad-
emy, the Coast Guard Academy, the United States
Merchant Marine Academy, a midshipman of a Navy
accredited State maritime academy, a member of the
Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or the
naval aviation college program, so long as that person satisfactorily continues in and completes at least two years training therein.

SEC. 109. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION.

(a) CLAIMS AS CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to require a person to be subject to combatant training and service in the uniformed services, if that person, by reason of sincerely held moral, ethical, or religious beliefs, is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form.

(b) ALTERNATIVE NONCOMBATANT OR CIVILIAN SERVICE.—A person who claims exemption from combatant training and service under subsection (a) and whose claim is sustained by the local board shall—

(1) be assigned to noncombatant service (as defined by the President), if the person is inducted into the uniformed services; or

(2) be ordered by the local board, if found to be conscientiously opposed to participation in such noncombatant service, to perform national civilian service for the period specified in section 104(a) and subject to such regulations as the President may prescribe.
SEC. 110. DISCHARGE FOLLOWING NATIONAL SERVICE.

(a) DISCHARGE.—Upon completion or termination of the obligation to perform national service under this title, a person shall be discharged from the uniformed services or from civilian service, as the case may be, and shall not be subject to any further service under this title.

(b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this section shall limit or prohibit the call to active service in the uniformed services of any person who is a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

SEC. 201. REGISTRATION OF FEMALES.

(a) REGISTRATION REQUIRED.—Section 3(a) of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 453(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “male” both places it appears;

(2) by inserting “or herself” after “himself”; and

(3) by striking “he” and inserting “the person”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 16(a) of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 466(a)) is amended by striking “men” and inserting “persons”.

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SEC. 202. REGISTRATION AND INDUCTION AUTHORITY.

(a) REGISTRATION.—Section 4 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 454) is amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) This section does not apply with respect to the induction of persons into the Armed Forces pursuant to the Universal National Service Act.”.

(b) INDUCTION.—Section 17(c) of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 467(c)) is amended by striking “now or hereafter” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “inducted pursuant to the Universal National Service Act.”.