

Moves to change Selective Service rules in the US prompt outpouring of opposition to reintroduction of the draft

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Last week, the House of Representatives voted to make enrollment in the US Selective Service automatic, prompting a flood of worried statements from young people and parents on social media about the reintroduction of the draft. In a 2023 video that went viral last week following House vote announcement, one young TikTok user asked, “What has my country ever done for me besides make it possible to buy a house and give me any sort of student loan relief or affordable healthcare?”

While all American men are required by law to sign up for the Selective Service, the bill passed by the House would make the process automatic. It will need to pass the Senate to become law. The outpouring of concern, opposition and ridicule prompted local news coverage. In an article entitled “How do Metro Detroiters feel about the possible Selective Service mandate?,” local news station WXYZ was

The move comes against the backdrop of the war between Russia and NATO in Ukraine, the longest war in Europe since World War II, statements by US officials that American troops will be deployed to Ukraine, and US allies expanding or reintroducing the draft. When asked, “Are you scared?” about a potential reintroduction of the draft, Southfield resident Brandon Richards replied:

In this context, the bill, while publicly framed as a mere bookkeeping measure, was seen by significant sections of the population as preparatory toward the introduction of the draft. “Y’very, very. Especially with everything going on in the world right now and the stuff that’s happening. I don’t think it’s fair that my son would have to go and fight for his country.”

In posts on TikTok and Instagram, young people and parents expressed their fears of being drafted into the military and their opposition to war. The response from the US national media, however, was to dismiss public concern over the expansion of the draft as the result of “misinformation.” “Y’all ain’t taking me,” said one woman on TikTok that was liked over 26,000 times.

An article in *Rolling Stone* was headlined, “Gen Z Fears a Military Draft Because of TikTok Misinformation.” It stated:

They’ve been able to get away with a whole lot of stuff. There hasn’t been a whole lot of uprising. But we are not going to let our young men fight a war that we don’t agree with that we don’t want. TikTok is awash in warnings that young men in the US could be drafted into military service and panicked reactions to that prospect—but all of it is predicated on a misinterpretation of a bill currently making its way through Congress.

...ing people do not fear and oppose a military draft because of times have changed.”
...ormation.” They fear and oppose a military draft because the German military said the same month that it is actively
...s to see and ears to hear. ... considering the return of conscription. “The ministry is currently
...ar in Ukraine between Russia and NATO has already led to whether general compulsory service or military service
...s of over half a million people. Videos have circulated worldwide,” it stated.
...nian conscription officers prowling the streets of Kiel, Poland, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated:
...es and pulling young people off of public transit and out of
...es.

...st the backdrop of this escalating war, US President Joe Biden is no longer a concept from the past. It is real, and it
...State of the Union address was a warmongering rant, in which he stated over two years ago. The most worrying thing at the
...dent declared, “In January 1941, Franklin Roosevelt came to the United States to address the nation. ... I know it
...mber to speak to the nation. ... War was raging in Europe, and it was devastating, especially for the younger generation, but
...ade a parallel to the present, declaring, “My purpose tonight is to tell you that we have to get used to the fact that a new era has begun: the
...up the Congress and alert the American people.” ... pre-war era.

...onth, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Charles Q. Brown
... *New York Times* that the NATO military alliance will
...lly” send significant numbers of active-duty NATO troops to
... which the newspaper said meant the deployment was
...le.”

...h President Emmanuel Macron, meanwhile, has announced
...s working to form a “coalition” of countries to send troops to

...enting on an article by the *Times* reporting the changes to the
... Service, WSWS International Editorial Board Chairman
...orth said on X:

This @nytimes article on reinstating the draft is an example
...f the way public opinion is prepared for major changes in
...ilitary policy. By the time it is reported that a policy is being
...ebated, one can reasonably assume that it is well on its way to
...eing implemented.

...year, Latvia, a NATO member, reintroduced conscription,
...ll young people between the ages of 18 and 27 to enter the
...rvices for 11 months.

...hile, Denmark, another NATO member, has announced that
...pand the draft to include women starting in 2026.

...Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has pledged to reintroduce
...ion if he wins the July 4 national election. Under his plan, at
...000 18-year-olds would be drafted into the military each year.
...red the move would “create a shared sense of purpose among
...g people and a renewed sense of pride in our country.”

...month, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said, “I’m
...d that Germany needs some kind of military conscription.”
...l that the country’s decision to end the draft was a “mistake,”



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