

SENATOR MEE MOUA

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Senate

State of Minnesota

December 1, 2006

Dick Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-2421

Dear Dick,

Thank you for contacting my office. I apologize for the delay in my response.

I understand your concern with this piece of legislation and would like to give you as much information as I can on this issue. What many people don't know is that even before I offered this legislation, a mandatory enrolment in the Selective Service was in place both on the Federal and State level. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 which created the country's first peacetime draft and formally established the Selective Service System as an independent Federal agency. From 1948 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the armed forces which could not be filled through voluntary means. In 1973, the draft ended and the U.S. converted to an All-Volunteer military. The registration requirement was suspended in April 1975 but resumed again in 1980 by President Carter.

In 2003, it was brought to my attention that most Minnesotans were unaware of this requirement. Many new citizens or members of underprivileged communities were not given access or the opportunity to become informed of this requirement. The consequences of breaking this law were also vastly unknown. It was my intent to make the existing law and its consequences more visible to the public in order to protect those who unknowingly were violating federal and state laws.

Essentially, by failing to sign up with the Selective Service, you in turn are ineligible for any federal student funding or federal and state employment. The **Solomon Amendment** added Section 12 (f) to the Military Selective Service Act in September 1982. Male students who have a requirement to register with Selective Service must satisfy that requirement as an eligibility precondition for receipt of Title IV federal student financial aid. Title IV aid includes such need-based programs as Guaranteed Student Loans and Pell Grants. In November 1985, the **Thurmond Amendment** to the Defense Authorization Act established Title 5, U.S. Code, and Section 3328, which requires Selective Service System registration (of men who are required to register) as a prerequisite for appointment to most federal jobs. The law also requires that a man



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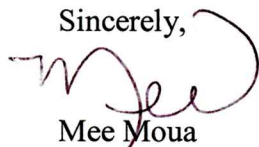
6

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be registered (or prove he is exempt from the requirement) before he can receive state student financial assistance or be eligible for state government jobs.

Enclosed is the text of the bill that was passed in 2003. I hope this will answer the questions and concerns you are having regarding this issue. Thank you for contacting me and please feel free to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mee Moua', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mee Moua
State Senator

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December 9, 2006

Sen. Mee Moua
235 State Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155

Re: Selective Service/Drivers License

Dear Sen Moua:

Thank you for your letter of December 1. Certainly, there is no need for an apology.

Between my letter and your response, I've shared the information about the Law, etc., with perhaps 25 people. There's been a good discussion.

Regardless of good intentions, I am still troubled with the 'stealth' nature of the registration. As per the enclosed, in my 'day' you had to carry around the Selective Service piece of paper and you knew exactly what it represented. I would bet that it is the rare young person these days who would have any idea that, when signing up for a drivers license, they were also signing up for the Draft, if they even have any idea what 'Draft' was. Succinctly, this should be an issue for ongoing study and legislative remedy.

Even more, however, I have become interested in what is obvious on the Drivers License (DL) form: that a young person is absolutely required to register for possible service in a war that might kill him or her down the road; while on the same form, it is merely 'optional' to register to vote for those who pass rules like this one.

If registration for the draft is automatic on the DL form, so should registration to vote be equally automatic, and both should be clearly identified on the Drivers License. If the legislature can require all sorts of education concerning assorted warnings to women making pregnancy-related decisions, as seems incessantly argued at the legislature by the pro-life lobby, shouldn't a person signing up for the draft get something similar about the real meaning of that action as well? And why not include with the Drivers License a booklet outlining the rights and obligations of being a citizen of this state and nation?

Thank you again.

C: Sen-elect Saltzman
Rep-elect Swails
Sec'y of State-elect Ritchie

8