



THE DIRECTOR OF SELECTIVE SERVICE
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425

September 2019

Dear Principals and Educators:

School is back in session and before we know it, autumn will be upon us. I have no doubt your calendar is jam-packed. However, I'm asking that before the leaves start to fall, you add one more lesson to the students' curriculum. Please inform your student body (especially male juniors and seniors) about Selective Service registration and the severe lifetime consequences of failing to do so.

Our research indicates – that in almost every school district across the country – there is an increase in the number of young men who fail to register. The main reason is because men are not informed that they are required by law to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Registration is not only a legal requirement, but a civic duty and a key component of our national defense readiness.

To help men register, they only need to go to SSS.gov. They can *preregister* at 17 years and 3 months of age and their registration will be held until they reach age 18. Why is this so important? Because every year, tens of thousands of men turn 26 years of age who failed to register. By then, the registration door is permanently closed. That means they are unable to receive federally funded college loans and grants; are unable to get into federally funded training and certification programs; are barred from all federal employment; ineligible for many state and local government jobs; and immigrants – documented and undocumented – will have a 5-year delay in processing their citizenship application. I can't stress enough – 45 seconds online registering at SSS.gov can save a man 45 years of headaches and heartaches.

Your support in getting this message out is invaluable. Here's how you can help:

- Post the educational material about registration that is available at SSS.gov;
- Share this information with your counselors, coaches, and teachers;
- Add "Selective Service registration" to your graduates' career/college check list; and
- Assign the duty of "Selective Service System Liaison" to a member of your staff.

It may surprise you to know that while over 90 percent of men register, we continue to receive tens of thousands of requests annually from former students trying to reclaim the benefits they have lost because they failed to register. Please make sure that every male high school student knows about registration and ***the potential lifetime of consequences associated with failing to do so.***

We wish you a successful school year. With your help, we can ensure that no man fails to register without knowing the consequences that failing to register entails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald M. Benton".

Donald M. Benton
Director, U.S. Selective Service System