

# National Coalition For Men (NCFM)

Since 1977

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

## NCFM CALLS FOR EQUALITY IN SELECTIVE SERVICE

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Defense Secretary Leon Panetta removed the military's ban on women serving in combat.

In the 1981 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, Rostker v. Goldberg, 453 U.S. 57 (1981), the Court held that since women are excluded from combat, men and women were not similarly situated, thus women did not have to register for selective service.

In 1980, a year earlier, a group of uppity men from the National Coalition for a Just Draft proposed the radical notion that men and women are equal and should be treated as such (see: Hayward, F., Appeal on Behalf of Coalition for a Just Draft, American Male, Fall issue, Vol. 1, No. 4).

In particular, "We must demand that every legal expectation—military or otherwise—be equally applicable to males and females" (page 8).

Men failing to register with Selective Service can be fined up to \$250,000, sentenced to up to five years in prison, and become ineligible for a number of federal and state benefits including: jobs, financial aid, citizenship, loans, and job training.

NCFM President Harry Crouch noted that, "It's about time. Women now have the same benefits, opportunity, and risks that come from combat.

Unfortunately, they don't have to register for Selective Service. So they don't have equal responsibility. Women cannot be penalized for failing to register."

Equal opportunity must include equal responsibility. Women have supported wars at about the same rate as have men. Either extend the Selective Service registration requirement to women, including penalties for failing to register... or, end military conscription.

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