

# TESTIMONY REGARDING SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

June 11, 2024

1:00PM

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*SENATE BILL 113*

## Witness:

**Jacob G. Daniels**

**Deputy Associate Director, Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs  
Selective Service System | National Headquarters**

## Testimony:

Good afternoon, Chair Loychik, Vice Chair Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 113.

My name is Jacob Daniels. I serve as Deputy Associate Director for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at the United States Selective Service System.

Men must register with Selective Service System within thirty days of their eighteenth birthday.

They can register at our website, [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov), at any United States Post Office, and in some states – like in Ohio – men are registered when they apply for a driver's license, learner's permit, identification card, or renewal.

In 2023, however, only 49.70% of eighteen-year-old Ohio men registered with Selective Service System.

Senate Bill 113 requires registration with Selective Service System – if required to register under federal law – to be eligible to work in Ohio state or local government.

It also requires high schools to inform students of the registration requirement, inform students about ways to register, and designate a school official – such as a guidance counselor – through which students may register with Selective Service System.

This bill aligns with federal law that requires registration to be eligible for employment in the Executive Branch. This includes employment with any federal agency, the United States Postal Service, the Census Bureau, AmeriCorps, and Peace Corps.

Nineteen states condition state and/or local government employment on registration with Selective Service System.

Most states, including Ohio, have laws on the books that require registration to qualify for in-state tuition, state-based student aid, scholarships, loans, or grants. Eight states condition matriculation to a state-funded university on registration with Selective Service System.

Registration is also required to be eligible for job training administered by the states under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Immigrants who fail to register face up to a five-year delay in obtaining citizenship and bi-partisan DREAMER legislation pending in both chambers of Congress condition eligibility on registration with Selective Service System.

Statutes that condition benefits on registration with Selective Service System are designed to incentivize registration and protect constituents. SB 113 also ensures that high school students are informed about the registration requirement.

The Agency is experiencing a drop in registration rates nationwide because of many factors. For example, fewer young people are getting driver's licenses and the *FAFSA Simplification Act* removed the opportunity to register on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Selective Service System aggressively advertises on digital platforms to notify young men of their legal and civic obligation to register; we attend conferences to inform influencers, such as coaches, teachers, counselors, and mentors about the registration requirement; but where registration efforts are best supported is via legislation, such as Senate Bill 113.

In the event of a national emergency, the system of personnel support selection must be fair and just. But a system where only 49.70% eighteen-year-old men register means that more than half of eighteen-year-old Ohio men didn't register... this is unfair to those who fulfilled their civic and legal obligation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

At the discretion of the Chair, I'm happy to answer any of your questions.