

The Opposite of Freedom

February 20, 2019

Do your young adult children need the government to take over their lives for, say, a year, to whip them into tip-top citizenship shape?

Forced service could be the new rite of passage into adulthood. Right after our kids finally get through high school or college, slap 12 months of “service to the nation” on them to help foster appreciation for the freedom . . . they had, instead, hoped to start enjoying.

Sound good?

No. Not even to the folks at the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service (NCMNPS). Appointed to advise

Tomorrow at American University in the nation’s capital, the commission is holding a public hearing entitled, “Should Service be Mandatory?”

Congress on whether to end draft registration or expand it to women, and whether to force all young people to give up a year of their lives doing military or civilian “national service” for



The screenshot shows the website for the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service (NCMNPS). The page title is "Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory?". The navigation menu includes "About Us", "Take Action", "Research", "News & Events", "Libraries", and "Stories". The main content area contains the following text:

Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory?

The Commission will host fourteen public hearings on the policy options it is considering for its final report. Through each hearing, the Commission will gain insights from panelists as it develops the policy recommendations for its final report to the Congress, the President, and the American people in March 2020.

On February 21, 2019, the Commission will host its second hearing, Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory? This hearing will explore whether all Americans should be mandated to serve in military, national, and/or public service. To attend in-person, please [RSVP here](#). The hearing will also be [livestreamed](#).

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: American University, Washington College of Law Claudio Grossman Hall, 4300 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, D.C., 20016

the federal government, the commissioners seem to eschew compulsion.

Their emails, their website address expresses “inspire2serve.gov” . . . not “force2serve.gov.” Because inspiring people is noble, while conscription is despicable and wrong.

Commissioners talk about a “personal commitment,” “a culture of service,” and the “overwhelming desire to serve” they’ve found among young people. Is it all just a rouse in route to a recommendation to Congress that young people should be forced against their will into government service?

And not even to repel invading hordes, not for any real emergency, but for basic government make-work and pretend nation-building.

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No. Involuntary servitude is a stupid idea. And the opposite of freedom.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.