

## To Condemn the Conscription of Women

WHEREAS, on January 24th, 2013, the U.S. Department of Defense announced its intent to lift the nation's exclusion of women from all remaining combat positions from which they have been previously barred, an exclusion upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, The women of the LCMS may be subject to registering for selective service and a possible draft, as the rationale provided by the U.S. Supreme Court in prohibiting this practice was the Department of Defense's ban on women in combat; and

WHEREAS, the conscription of women, especially in view of their imminent inclusion into all combat positions in the U.S. Armed Forces, is not in accordance with God's order of creation (Gen. 1-2; 1 Cor. 11), in which men are to be the self-sacrificial heads and protectors of women, laying down their lives for them as Christ laid down His life for His Church (Ephesians 5:25), and showing honor to them (1 Peter 3:7), which is further confirmed and testified to by the exclusion of women from combat duty and conscription throughout the Scriptures (Num. 1, Joshua 1:14, Deut. 20, Deut. 22, etc.); and

WHEREAS, at the 2013 synodical convention, the Mercy floor committee intended to speak to the issue of the conscription of women in their original resolution, as was printed in Today's Business for 7/23/2013, "Resolved, that the LCMS support those who have a religious and moral objection to women serving in ground combat positions and/or participating in the selective service system and being subject to a possible draft," yet the committee did not present the above phrase, "and/or participating in the selective service system and being subject to a possible draft," because "Mercy committee members saw no need to address that issue at this time" ([Reporter Online](#)); and

WHEREAS, since then, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, the U.S. Department of Defense announced that all U.S. military combat positions are being opened up to women, and detailed legal analysis has already been undertaken by the Department of Defense, in consultation with the Department of Justice, concerning the legal implications of this change of policy in regards to the constitutionality of the application of the selective service system; and

WHEREAS, we would be negligent if we did not defend the women of the LCMS and prepare for the serious and imminent possibility of women being subjected to being required to participate in the selective service system and a possible draft; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the LCMS condemn the conscription of women, in particular, by means of participation in the selective service system and a possible draft, as it is a confusion of God's order of creation; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the LCMS support those who have a religious and moral objection to women participating in the selective service system and being subject to a possible draft.

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Signature of President or Chairman

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Signature of Secretary

Submitted by Name of Organization  
City, State