

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: February 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 24-131, “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 24-131, “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon with minor amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On March 1, 2021, Bill 24-131, the “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2022”¹ was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson. The purpose of this bill is to require the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), in consultation with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to create and implement an awareness campaign of the federal Selective Service registration requirement. It also requires OSSE to submit an annual report outlining the total number of District residents who registered in the previous calendar year, the barriers to Selective Service registration, the District’s efforts to increase Selective Service registration, and how the District plans to increase registration in the current year.

The awareness campaign includes information about who is required to register under federal law, the penalties for failing for register, when to register, how to register, and opportunities and penalties associated with the registration requirement. As part of this campaign, OSSE would

¹ Originally introduced as Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2021.

ensure that individuals who must register and who are enrolled in a District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) or District of Columbia Public Charter School (DCPCS) would be notified of the requirement to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

Selective Service registration is required under Federal law to rapidly provide personnel to the Department of Defense in the event that Congress and the President active a draft.² At the same time, the law provides for an Alternative Service Program for conscientious objectors. Selective Service registration is a prerequisite for a number of programs including state-based student (such as Pell Grants), federally funded job training, federal security clearances, and U.S. citizenship for immigrants. The registration requirement is currently limited to males.³ Anyone who fails to register by the time they turn 26 risks permanently losing these federal benefits and opportunities which could negatively impact their personal and professional aspirations.

The District has one of the lowest registration rates in the country with only 51% of 18-25 year-old men meeting this requirement -- well below the 90% national average. Further, between 2007 and 2016, those who are required to register but did not lost an estimated \$4.6M.⁴ Much of the losses were attributable to Federal student aid and work training programs. By enacting this legislation and creating an awareness campaign, this legislation can help the District close its registration gap.

The bill as introduced included very detailed reporting requirements. However, according to testimony, it could go beyond the duties of OSSE. The committee print allows OSSE to satisfy reporting requirements by requesting data from the Selective Service System. This data could be analyzed by OSSE and partner agencies to improve the awareness campaign and ultimately registration efforts year-to-year.

The Committee takes no stance on the appropriateness of the Federal Selective Service policy and the myriad questions of equity and fairness in a system designed to support a country at war. However, given that so many public benefits are linked to completing the requirement, the Committee recommends adoption of the Committee Print for Bill 24-131.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

December 13, 2019 Bill 23-579, "Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019," is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.

December 17, 20219 Referred to the Committee on Education and the Committee of the Whole.

² 5 U.S. Code § 3328.

³ The Selective Service System bases the registration requirement on gender assigned at birth and not on gender identity or on gender reassignment. Individuals who are born male and changed their gender to female are still required to register. Individuals who are born female and changed their gender to male are not required to register.

⁴ The \$4.6M estimate was developed by the Selective Service System based on the analysis of unfavorable status information letters (SILs) issued by the agency.

- October 20, 2019 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 23-579 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- November 6, 2020 Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 23-579 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- November 24, 2020 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on Bill 23-579.
- March 1, 2021 Bill 24-131, “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2021,” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at Office of the Secretary.
- March 2, 2021 Referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- March 5, 2021 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 24-131 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- February 15, 2022 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 24-131.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Interim State Superintendent of Education Shana Young testified on behalf of the Mayor regarding Bill 24-131. While Ms. Young recognized the action of registering for the selective service as an important civic obligation, she also opined it is not the role of OSSE as the state education agency to monitor progress toward and enforce the selective service requirement.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on Bill 24-131.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 24-131 on November 24, 2020. The testimony from that hearing is summarized below. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Joel C. Spangenberg, Local Board Member, Selective Service System, testified in support of Bill 24-131. Mr. Spanenberg previously served at the Selective Service System as the agency’s Chief of Staff during President Obama’s administration and now as a Selective Service System Local Board Member and State Resource Volunteer. He stated that too many men in the District are losing out on valuable benefits. In fact, in calendar year 2019, which is the year the latest registration data is available, only 54 percent of the District’s young men, 18-25 years of

age, registered with the Selective Service System. Further, Mr. Spanenberg testified the District continues to rank last among all United States territories and states in its registration rate.

Shana Young, Interim State Superintendent of Education, identified the importance of students understanding the implications of registering for selective service. However, she argued it is not the role of OSSE as the state education agency to monitor progress toward and enforce the selective service requirement. OSSE is opposed to the data reporting provisions in lines 42-56 of the introduced Bill, as it is unclear how OSSE would obtain the data on registrants to the Selective Service. Lastly, Ms. Young shared several steps OSSE currently takes to support this effort. For example, in order to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), an applicant must respond to a question that asks if they have registered for the Selective Service, and if not, they can select to register upon completion of the FAFSA. OSSE has also created an informational video with the Selective Service and provides brochures in DCTAG and GED offices to promote awareness. She stated that OSSE remains open to more ideas to get the word out on the law's requirements and its implications to students.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §§ 38-2602(b), OSSE shall assume the several responsibilities listed in subsection (b) of this code. Bill 24-131 amends the code by adding an additional responsibility of creating an awareness campaign of the federal Selective Service registration requirement. The awareness campaign must include information about who is required to register under federal law, the penalties for failing to register, when to register, how to register, and opportunities and penalties associated with the registration requirement. This section also requires OSSE to submit an annual report outlining the total number of District residents who registered in the previous calendar year, the barriers to Selective Service registration, the District's efforts to increase Selective Service registration, and how the District plans to increase registration in the current year.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to a fiscal impact statement from the Chief Financial Officer on February --, 2022, Bill 24-131 --- fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 24-131.
<u>Section 2</u>	Directs OSSE, in consultation of the DMV, to create and implement an awareness campaign of the federal Selective Service registration requirement.

Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement

Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day Congressional review language.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 24-131 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 24-131.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 24-131
5. Comparative Print for Bill 24-131.
6. Committee Print for Bill 24-131.


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend Section 202 of the District of Columbia Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007 to require the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to create and implement a Selective Service awareness campaign.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2021”.

Sec. 2. Section 3(b) of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602) is amended to add a new paragraph (32) to read as follows:

“(32)(A) In consultation with the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall create and implement a Selective Service awareness campaign (“campaign”).

“(B) The awareness campaign shall include the following information:

“(i) Who is required under federal law to register for Selective Service;

“(ii) When an individual required to register must do so;

“(iii) Clear step-by-step guidance on how to register; and

34 “(iv) An explanation of what benefits an individual will no longer be
35 eligible for if an individual does not register for the Selective Service despite being required to
36 do so.

37 “(C) As part of the campaign established in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph,
38 OSSE shall ensure that all individuals currently enrolled in a District of Columbia public or
39 public charter school, who are required to register for Selective Service in compliance with the
40 requirements of 50 U.S.C. App. § 453, are notified of the registration requirement within 30 days
41 of the individual’s 18th birthday.

42 “(D) By March 30th of each year, OSSE, using information requested and
43 obtained from the Selective Service, shall compile and transmit to the Council a report detailing
44 the barriers to Selective Service registration, the District’s efforts to increase Selective Service
45 registration during the preceding calendar year, how the District plans to increase registration in
46 the current year, and the following data for the preceding calendar year:

47 “(i) The number of individuals, disaggregated by age, who were required
48 to register for Selective Service;

49 “(ii) The number of individuals, disaggregated by age, who actually
50 registered for Selective Service;

51 “(iii) The number of individuals who registered through the DMV;

52 “(iv) The number of individuals who registered through means other than
53 the DMV and a list of the other means, ranked from most to least used, by which individuals
54 registered; and

55 “(v) The number of individuals who were notified of the registration
56 requirement pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.”.

57 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

58 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
59 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
60 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

61 Sec. 5. Effective date.

62 This act shall take effect following approval of the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
63 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 60-day period of congressional review as
64 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
65 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C Official Code § 1-206.22(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
66 Columbia Register.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**



Public Hearing on
B23-0921, “The Education and Credit Continuity Amendment Act of 2020” & B23-579, “The
Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019”

Testimony of
Shana Young
Interim State Superintendent of Education

Before the
Committee of the Whole
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
and
Committee on Education
The Honorable David Grosso, Chairman

Council of the District of Columbia
Live via Zoom Video Broadcast

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, Chairperson Grosso, and members of the Committee on Education. My name is Shana Young, and I am the Interim State Superintendent of Education. I am pleased to testify before you today. I will provide thoughts on B23-0921, the "Education and Credit Continuity Amendment Act of 2020" first and then I will turn to B23-579, the "Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019."

Education and Credit Continuity Amendment Act of 2020

It is imperative that students who are detained, incarcerated, or re-entering the community from correctional facilities and those otherwise in the custody of the District for the purposes of child welfare obtain the educational opportunities for which they are entitled. We must, however, be sensitive to the unique needs of this population and work together to address them. OSSE has participated and continues to participate in cross-agency and cross-district collaboration efforts such as the Students in the Care of the District of Columbia Working Group. We believe that collaboration among agencies and stakeholders is critical for better supporting and coordinating services for this vulnerable population.

As the state education agency, OSSE provides state level oversight of federal laws meant to protect educational services for students engaged in the correctional facilities. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (20 U.S.C. § 6431, et seq.), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, emphasizes the need to create smooth transitions between correctional facilities and locally operated programs. The law requires state education agencies receiving Title I, Part D grants to submit a statewide plan that addresses meeting the educational needs of the neglected, delinquent, or at-risk students. The Title I, Part D grant may be used to carry out the state's plan and concentrate on providing participants with the tools needed to make a successful transition. The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) New Beginnings Facility is currently the only recipient of the grant.

OSSE also monitors local education agencies on their obligation to provide legal entitlements to students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). In the instance where a student with a disability is detained in a correctional facility, the student must be afforded a free and appropriate education (FAPE) as guaranteed in the IDEA, educational services as delineated in a student's individualized education plan (IEP), and access to the procedural safeguards available to ensure their legal rights are met. Annually, OSSE monitors LEAs that provide educational services in correctional facilities through both desktop and onsite monitoring.

OSSE has also developed several memoranda of agreements (MOAs) with sister agencies pertaining to educational service delivery for students in the care of DC. These agreements delineate the responsibilities of each agency in providing educational services. The MOAs currently in place include one between OSSE, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and DYRS; one between OSSE, DCPS, and the Department of Corrections (DOC); and one between OSSE, DCPS, and the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). Additionally, OSSE has a dedicated point of contact, whose role is to support timely information sharing, address systemic challenges, and help ensure that the District meets its obligations to all students.

The Education and Credit Continuity Amendment Act of 2020 codifies several activities, such as (1) the creation of a transition team to support the return of a student to the community, (2) required elements in a transition plan, (3) timelines for the sharing of certain records and the enrollment in an appropriate educational placement, and (4) the designation and responsibilities of school points of contact. Many of

these processes, and associated timelines, are already outlined in the MOAs between agencies. We believe that those MOAs and the processes described therein provide the appropriate guidance for agencies to use. Further, while agencies should move expeditiously to ensure students are placed in the appropriate placement that will best serve the student, and timing is important, making the right decision in a reasonable amount of time is most prudent. Also, the provision requiring meetings between OSSE and the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) no less than two times a year to discuss the coordination of services in lines 199-201 is an existing practice that is outlined in the MOA, and in all MOAs mentioned in my testimony today.

Additionally, lines 100-136 of the bill prescribes OSSE with data sharing obligations across agencies; however, OSSE already shares pertinent student level data with agencies consistent with federal privacy laws, so agencies can meet their lawful obligations and serve students well. We are also concerned with language in the bill that is overly broad, specifically in lines 102-104. Codifying data sharing obligations may stand in the way of being responsive to changing needs, and OSSE should be able to use its process for creating data sharing agreements with agencies.

The bill also outlines steps that LEAs must take to ensure the uniform evaluation of transcripts. LEAs are responsible for the review and award of academic credits and the conference of diplomas. While OSSE defers to LEAs, DCPS, and charter schools on their ability to implement such practice, OSSE is concerned that the provision in section 202 on the awarding of partial credits may be complicated because dividing courses into fractional parts will be extremely difficult to do in a consistent manner. OSSE is also concerned about lines 188-189 that requires DCPS to waive specific courses required for graduation if substantially similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another school district. DCPS has procedures for the review of coursework for credit, and those should be followed, but it should be clear that all graduates must meet graduation requirements codified in 5-A DCMR §2203 and approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE).

OSSE is committed to addressing this issue for students who are in D.C.'s care. We believe that the best solutions for this specific set of challenges should be crafted through a process that allows for more time to ensure we are putting in place the right policies. OSSE looks forward to addressing this issue as a part of the Students in the Care of D.C. (SCDC) Coordinating Committee along with our agency partners and community stakeholders.

Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019

The United States relies on volunteer members of the Armed Forces to keep our nation safe, yet at some points in our history, Congress has authorized a draft. The Military Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3802) requires that men aged 18-25 register for selective service in the event that Congress initiates a draft. Failure to register for the selective service when required has consequences including the loss of eligibility for federal student aid, federal job training, or a federal job. It could also result in prosecution and a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or jail time of up to five years. Immigrants to the United States, would not be eligible for citizenship.

Broadly, the proposed bill would require OSSE to work with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to create and implement a Selective Service awareness campaign. It would also require OSSE to ensure that all public school students are notified of their registration requirement within 30 days of the

individual's 18th birthday. In addition, the bill would require OSSE to submit a report on efforts to increase selective service participation and prescribed data.

It is important that students understand the implications of registering for selective service. There are several steps that OSSE currently takes to support this effort. For example, in order to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), an applicant must respond to a question that asks if they have registered for the selective service, and if not, they can select to register upon completion of the FAFSA. The FAFSA makes clear that registering for selective service is required to receive federal student aid. We are very pleased that the District has the third highest FAFSA completion rates in the country with 67.95% of seniors completing the FAFSA.¹ This is due, in part, to the extensive outreach we do regarding DCTAG which requires completion of the FAFSA. In the past, we have created a video with the selective service and we provide brochures in our DCTAG and GED offices to promote awareness. We are always open to more ideas to get the word out on the law's requirements and its implications to our students.

However, it is not the role of OSSE as the state education agency to monitor progress toward and enforce the selective service requirement. OSSE is opposed to the data reporting provisions in lines 42-56. It's unclear how OSSE would obtain the data on registrants to the selective service. OSSE believes that registering for the selective service is an important civic obligation, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with interested stakeholders on engagement efforts that are consistent with OSSE's role as the state education agency.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on these bills today. I am pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

¹ ["2019-20 FAFSA Cycle Sees 10,000 Fewer Completions."](#) National College Attainment Network. (July 8, 2019).

Testimony of Joel C. Spangenberg
DC Council of the District of Columbia
Joint Public Hearing of the Committee of the Whole and Committee on Education
November 24, 2020

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today. I am grateful that Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Grosso have included consideration of the “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019” (B23-579) in today’s joint public hearing before the DC Council Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Education. I am here to offer my strong support for this legislation; my hope is that it is passed into DC law at the earliest opportunity. My views on this matter are informed by my experience with the Selective Service System (SSS) as the agency’s Chief of Staff during President Obama’s administration and now as an SSS Local Board Member and State Resource Volunteer. I am a proud veteran of the United States Navy, and believe strongly that veterans should continue to serve after they wear the uniform. Today, I am testifying in my personal capacity, in the spirit of serving others, and in the hope of making a positive difference in DC.

I am pleased that Chairman Mendelson introduced the “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019”. If passed into law, it will go a long way in helping to ensure that DC men will be better able to access SSS registration-linked federal benefits (Note: Under federal law, only men are required to register). As it stands, too many men in DC are losing out on these valuable benefits. This legislation would: establish and implement an SSS awareness campaign in DC led by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in consultation with the DC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); notify DC Public and Public Charter School students about the SSS registration requirement within 30 days of their 18th birthday; and establish an annual reporting requirement to support continuous improvement efforts in increasing the SSS registration rate in DC.

I applaud Chairman Mendelson, as well as the DC State Board of Education (SBOE) and the DC Mayor’s Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs (MABVA), who have called for DC government leadership to address this issue. In September 2019, SBOE adopted a resolution calling for an outreach program to address this issue, along with the implementation of additional mechanisms to help young men register. This was shortly after I testified before SBOE in July 2019. SBOE’s resolution is included with my testimony (**Enclosure 1**). MABVA adopted resolutions in 2016, 2017, and 2018 to put into focus DC’s low Selective Service System registration rate and protect its residents’ access to federal benefits. I have included the resolution from 2018 in my testimony (**Enclosure 2**). In full disclosure, I served as the Acting and, then later, appointed Vice Chairman of MABVA and testified about the need for action to fix the DC low registration rate issue before the DC Council’s Committee on Government Operations during annual performance hearings in 2018 and 2019.

There are others who strongly support this legislation that I’d like to let you know about. I’m pleased that the previous Selective Service System Director, the Honorable Larry Romo, has provided a written statement in support of this legislation (**Enclosure 3**). Mr.

Romo is currently the National Commander of the American GI Forum, which is a Hispanic veterans and civil rights organization. Mr. Jason Secrest, the Commander of American Legion Post 8 in DC, provided correspondence in support of this legislation (**Enclosure 4**). The Army Distaff Foundation and the Knollwood Military Retirement Community in DC have done so as well (**Enclosure 5**).

The Challenge and Impact – DC Men are missing out!

As of Calendar Year 2019, which is the year the latest registration data is available, only 54 percent of DC's young men, 18-25 years of age, registered with Selective Service System. It is promising that the registration rate has increased 8 percent since 2016, which I believe primarily reflects the initiative that volunteers from SSS and the DC State Director of SSS, Ms. Barbara Pittman, have undertaken. Nonetheless, DC's registration rate is just over one half of the approximately 92 percent national average. I believe that DC still continues to rank last among all United States territories and states in its registration rate.

Why should we care? If men do not register by the time they turn 26, they risk permanently losing valuable federal benefits and opportunities that they may need to meet their personal and professional aspirations. Specifically, registration is an eligibility requirement for men to (1) receive federal student aid; (2) participate in federal job training programs; (3) work for the federal government (including the US Postal Service), the area's biggest employer; and (4) become naturalized as US citizens.

Over a recent 10-year period, SSS estimated that young men in DC missed out on \$4.6M in benefits tied to registration. That number does not include the cost of missed opportunities to work for the federal government or US Postal Service or any adverse impacts related to delays in becoming a US citizen. Moreover, this only takes into account the men that wanted to access these benefits despite not having registered before they turned 26 (Note: Men are no longer able to register once they turn 26). There may be many more men who learned that they likely would not qualify for these benefits and just gave up. The point is that there is a known, significant loss of federal benefits impacting unregistered DC men who are 26 years of age or older. For those who are under 26 who haven't registered, they are likely missing out on federal benefits, as well. A document with more information about this economic impact is included with my testimony (**Enclosure 6**).

Efforts that are Underway in DC to address the Challenge

Again, I am grateful for your help in addressing this issue in DC. To show you how seriously I am about this, I want to share some of the approaches I have spent my time on in DC as a volunteer to address this issue. This will also give you a sense of how critical government support is in addressing this matter.

- I worked with the DC DMV director to learn more about the effectiveness of current DC opt-out driver's license legislation that defaults to registering young men when they applied for their license or identification card (Note: This was

passed into law in 2012). This means that men who do not wish to register need to indicate that they do not want to be registered on their application materials. The DMV director shared historical data with me that indicated that over 12 percent of DC's young men were opting out as recently as 2016, and that she was open to working with me to address this. I helped her obtain updated materials from SSS so she could develop a new brochure and other materials for the DC DMV, which helped make it even clearer that men would lose benefits if they failed to register. Here is a real bright spot: As of 2019, just over 3 percent of men are opting out; a 9 percent improvement from 2016. This translates to fewer men missing out on important federal benefits.

- I met with one of the DC Assistant Superintendents of Education from OSSE to find out how we could work together to help remind young men to register. Among our topics of discussion was the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). I mentioned that it is among the top methods for registration in DC, and that it could be further leveraged. She put me in touch with a member of her staff, who then agreed to add SSS information to the DC FAFSA Initiative Toolkit. This new initiative was a great opportunity to maximize SSS registration awareness for college-bound, DC men.
- To help ensure all young men knew about the SSS registration requirement, even if they were not immediately college-bound or did not interact with the DMV, I reached out to the Chancellor of DCPS, who had recently announced his desire to implement a career readiness guide for all seniors in high school. This sounded like a good way to inform students who weren't being reached through the DMV or FAFSA, the top two registration methods in DC per Calendar Year 2017 registration data. The Chancellor worked with his team and agreed to include information about SSS registration in this guide.
- I also engaged the DC Department of Corrections and the federal Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) to ensure that justice-involved men were made aware of SSS registration – and even had a way of submitting their completed registration materials – so that they would not miss out on valuable federal benefits that could help them in life. These organizations were eager to assist and are helping to share information about the SSS registration requirement.

As I've stated previously, I believe these efforts have been a key part of the 8 percent improvement in SSS registration over the past few years. However, I believe we need your help to make an even bigger impact.

Please Support this Bill

I believe the "Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2019" would help improve the registration rate in DC. Having the resources and support of DC government will accelerate improvement efforts that have already been put into place. I

am hopeful that this legislation will contribute to DC closing its registration gap in a significant way over the next few years. Please help this bill become law in DC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill today.

§ 38-2602(b). Responsibilities.

* * *

“(30A)(A) In consultation with the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall create and implement a Selective Service awareness campaign (“campaign”).

“(B) The awareness campaign shall include the following information:

“(i) Who is required, under federal law, to register for Selective Service and the penalties for failing for register;

“(ii) When an individual required to register for Selective Service must do so;

“(iii) Clear step-by-step guidance on how to register; and

“(iv) An explanation of the programs and opportunities an individual will not be eligible for if the individual does not register for the Selective Service.

“(C) As part of the campaign established in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, OSSE shall ensure that all individuals currently enrolled in a District of Columbia public or public charter school, who are required to register for Selective Service in compliance with the requirements of section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act, approved June 24, 1948 (62 Stat. 605; 50 U.S.C. App. § 453), are notified of the registration requirement within 30 days of the individual’s 18th birthday.

“(D) By March 30th of each year, OSSE, using information requested and obtained from the Selective Service, shall compile and transmit to the Council a report detailing the following:

“(i) The total number of registrations in the previous calendar year;

“(ii) Barriers to Selective Service registration;

“(iii) The District’s efforts to increase Selective Service registration during the preceding calendar year, and

“(iv) How the District plans to increase registration in the current year;”.

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11 A BILL
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13 24-131
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15 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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20 To amend section 3 of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000 to require the
21 Office of the State Superintendent of Education to create and implement a Selective
22 Service awareness campaign.
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
25 act may be cited as the “Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of
26 2021”.

27 Sec. 2. Section 3(b) of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective
28 October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602(b)), is amended by adding a
29 new paragraph (30A) to read as follows:

30 “(30A)(A) In consultation with the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles,
31 the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall create and implement a
32 Selective Service awareness campaign (“campaign”).

33 “(B) The awareness campaign shall include the following information:

34 “(i) Who is required, under federal law, to register for Selective Service
35 and the penalties for failing for register;

36 “(ii) When an individual required to register for Selective Service must do
37 so;

38 “(iii) Clear step-by-step guidance on how to register; and

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40 not be eligible for if the individual does not register for the Selective Service.

41 “(C) As part of the campaign established in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph,
42 OSSE shall ensure that all individuals currently enrolled in a District of Columbia public or
43 public charter school, who are required to register for Selective Service in compliance with the
44 requirements of section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act, approved June 24, 1948 (62 Stat.
45 605; 50 U.S.C. App. § 453), are notified of the registration requirement within 30 days of the
46 individual’s 18th birthday.

47 “(D) By March 30th of each year, OSSE, using information requested and
48 obtained from the Selective Service, shall compile and transmit to the Council a report detailing
49 the following:

50 “(i) The total number of registrations in the previous calendar year;

51 “(ii) Barriers to Selective Service registration;

52 “(iii) The District’s efforts to increase Selective Service registration during
53 the preceding calendar year, and

54 “(iv) How the District plans to increase registration in the current year;”.

55 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

56 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
57 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
58 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

59 Sec. 4. Effective date.

60 This act shall take effect following approval of the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
61 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 60-day period of congressional review as
62 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
63 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C Official Code § 1-206.22(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
64 Columbia Register.