



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 88

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress and the President of the United States to raise the minimum age for enlisting in the military to age 21.

By Council Members Williams and Rosenthal

Whereas, Federal law allows individuals who are age 18 and over, and those age 17 with parental consent, to enlist in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard; and

Whereas, Each branch of the United States Armed Forces utilizes recruitment and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs in high schools in an effort to promote the option of military service to students and to obtain enlistments of those age 17 and older; and

Whereas, Under federal law, military recruiters must be afforded the same access to public high school students that is provided to colleges, universities, and prospective employers; and

Whereas, Research indicates that adolescents are more susceptible to peer pressure and have an increased tendency to engage in risky behavior in comparison to adults; and

Whereas, According to a study by the National Institutes of Health, development of the portion of the brain involved in decision-making is not complete until an individual is over age 21; and

Whereas, Service in the military may entail exposure to life-threatening and highly stressful situations; and

Whereas, Those under age 21 may be unprepared to properly weigh the risks and benefits of military

service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress and the President of the United States to raise the minimum age for enlisting in the military to age 21.

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