

March 4, 1981

Dear Mr. President:

As you and your administration press the fight to eliminate unnecessary government spending, we are writing to urge you to take concrete steps now to implement your stand against registration for the draft.

We recognize the importance of a strong military and we applaud reasonable efforts to achieve that goal.

However, it is our conviction that draft registration is expensive and ineffective. It has failed to impress the Soviets and would not significantly speed mobilization time in an emergency. Worse, the plan has not addressed the critical issues of the quality and quantity of U.S. armed forces and may give the American public a false sense of security about our military strength.

When you submit the details of your budget March 10, it is our hope that you will include the recommendation that funding for draft registration be eliminated. At a time when budgets for social programs are suffering drastic reductions, this is one area in which some \$13 million can be cut quickly and painlessly.

Throughout your campaign you maintained that draft registration was not necessary in peacetime. You called it a "meaningless gesture" that would limit the personal freedom of registrants and do little to speed mobilization time. We ask you to act on your conviction at this important time of budget restraint.

Sincerely,

LES AuCOIN
Member of Congress