



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
5 October 2004

Contact: Carrie Sloan or Harald Stavenas
(202) 225-2539

***Statement of Chairman Duncan Hunter on the Rejection of the
Democrat-Sponsored Military Draft Bill***

WASHINGTON, DC— Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, issued the following statement upon the overwhelming defeat of the *Universal National Service Act*, HR 163 sponsored by New York Democrat Rep. Charles Rangel. The bill would require all young persons in the United States, including women, to perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service in furtherance of national defense and homeland security. The vote was 402-2 and the bill was defeated.

“This overwhelming defeat will hopefully stifle those who seek to spread deliberately false information of an impending draft. We simply do not need a draft. The Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines are meeting their recruitment goals and are still attracting and retaining the people we need to fill all ranks. Our military today is highly qualified because it is comprised of an all volunteer force.

“The President and the Secretary of Defense once again today expressed their opposition to reinstating a draft in any form. The President said that if he were presented with this bill, he would veto it, and Secretary Rumsfeld said he would ‘oppose any proposal to re-institute the draft.’

“This bill was brought to the House floor today to expose the biggest hoax in show business. I say again, it is the biggest hoax of the year. This rumor of a secret plan to reinstate the draft, has been running like wildfire throughout the internet, where millions of young people are being scared by a tipster who wants to insight fear in our youth. There is no ‘secret plan’ for a draft or backdoor draft. The fact is that not a single Republican signed onto this bill or is in favor of reinstating a draft. The only supporters of the draft bill are the Democrats.

“There is only one reason that would justify conscription: if the military were unable to recruit enough volunteers to meet its personnel needs. Again, this is not the case. We must put an end to this rampant rumor and set the record straight.”

#####

<http://armedservices.house.gov/>