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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. HOULAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Unity through Service  
5 Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON SERVICE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an  
2 Interagency Council on Service (in this section re-  
3 ferred to as the “Council”).

4           (2) FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

5                 (A) advise the President with respect to  
6 promoting, strengthening, and expanding oppor-  
7 tunities for military service, national service,  
8 and public service for all people of the United  
9 States; and

10                (B) review, assess, and coordinate holistic  
11 recruitment strategies and initiatives of the ex-  
12 ecutive branch to foster an increased sense of  
13 service and civic responsibility among all people  
14 of the United States and to explore ways of en-  
15 hancing connectivity of interested applicants to  
16 national service programs and opportunities.

17         (b) COMPOSITION.—

18           (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be com-  
19 posed of members who are representatives of—

20                 (A) the Secretary of State;

21                 (B) the Secretary of Defense;

22                 (C) the Attorney General;

23                 (D) the Secretary of the Interior;

24                 (E) the Secretary of Commerce;

25                 (F) the Secretary of Labor;

1 (G) the Secretary of Health and Human  
2 Services;

3 (H) the Secretary of Education;

4 (I) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

5 (J) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

6 (K) the Director of the Office of Manage-  
7 ment and Budget;

8 (L) the Director of National Intelligence;

9 (M) the Director of the Office of Personnel  
10 Management;

11 (N) the Director of the Peace Corps;

12 (O) the Director of Selective Service Sys-  
13 tem;

14 (P) the Chief Executive Officer of the Cor-  
15 poration for National and Community Service;

16 and

17 (Q) such other officers as the President  
18 may designate.

19 (2) CHAIR.—The President shall annually des-  
20 ignate to serve as the Chair of the Council a member  
21 of the Council under paragraph (1), the appointment  
22 of whom as an officer or employee of the Federal  
23 Government was made by the President by and with  
24 the advice and consent of the Senate.

1           (3) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet on a  
2           quarterly basis or more frequently as the Chair of  
3           the Council may direct.

4           (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL.—The  
5           Council shall—

6           (1) assist and advise the President in the estab-  
7           lishment of strategies, goals, objectives, and prior-  
8           ities to promote service and civic responsibility  
9           among all people of the United States;

10          (2) develop and recommend to the President  
11          common recruitment strategies and outreach oppor-  
12          tunities for increasing the participation, and propen-  
13          sity of people of the United States to participate, in  
14          military service, national service, and public service  
15          in order to address national security and domestic  
16          investment;

17          (3) serve as a forum for Federal officials re-  
18          sponsible for military service, national service, and  
19          public service programs to, as feasible and prac-  
20          ticable—

21                 (A) coordinate and share best practices for  
22                 service recruitment; and

23                 (B) develop common interagency, cross-  
24                 service initiatives and pilots for service recruit-  
25                 ment;

1           (4) lead a strategic, interagency coordinated ef-  
2           fort on behalf of the Federal Government to develop  
3           joint awareness and recruitment, retention, and mar-  
4           keting initiatives involving military service, national  
5           service, and public service;

6           (5) consider approaches for assessing impacts  
7           of service on the needs of the United States and in-  
8           dividuals participating in and benefitting from such  
9           service;

10          (6) consult, as the Council considers advisable,  
11          with representatives of non-Federal entities, includ-  
12          ing State, local, and Tribal governments, State and  
13          local educational agencies, State Service Commis-  
14          sions, institutions of higher education, nonprofit or-  
15          ganizations, faith-based organizations, philanthropic  
16          organizations, and the private sector, in order to  
17          promote and develop initiatives to foster and reward  
18          military service, national service, and public service;

19          (7) not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
20          actment of this Act, and quadrennially thereafter,  
21          prepare and submit to the President and Congress  
22          a Service Strategy, which shall set forth—

23                 (A) a review of programs and initiatives of  
24                 the Federal Government relating to the man-  
25                 date of the Council;

1 (B) a review of Federal Government online  
2 content relating to the mandate of the Council,  
3 including user experience with such content;

4 (C) current and foreseeable trends for  
5 service to address the needs of the United  
6 States;

7 (D) recommended service recruitment  
8 strategies and branding opportunities to ad-  
9 dress outreach and communication deficiencies  
10 identified by the Council; and

11 (E) to the extent practical, a joint service  
12 messaging strategy for military service, national  
13 service, and public service;

14 (8) identify any notable initiatives by State,  
15 local, and Tribal governments and by public and  
16 nongovernmental entities to increase awareness of  
17 and participation in national service programs; and

18 (9) perform such other functions as the Presi-  
19 dent may direct.

20 **SEC. 3. JOINT MARKET RESEARCH TO ADVANCE MILITARY**  
21 **AND NATIONAL SERVICE.**

22 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of De-  
23 fense, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for  
24 National and Community Service, and the Director of the  
25 Peace Corps may carry out a joint market research, mar-

1 ket studies, recruiting, and advertising program to com-  
2 plement the existing programs of the military depart-  
3 ments, the national service programs administered by the  
4 Corporation, and the Peace Corps.

5 (b) INFORMATION SHARING PERMITTED.—Section  
6 503 of title 10, United States Code, shall not be construed  
7 to prohibit sharing of information among, or joint mar-  
8 keting efforts of, the Department of Defense, the Corpora-  
9 tion for National and Community Service, and the Peace  
10 Corps to carry out this section.

11 **SEC. 4. TRANSITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY**  
12 **SERVICEMEMBERS AND NATIONAL SERVICE**  
13 **PARTICIPANTS.**

14 (a) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 1143(e)(1)  
15 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting  
16 “the Corporation for National and Community Service,”  
17 after “State employment agencies,”.

18 (b) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE, JOB TRAINING AS-  
19 SISTANCE, AND OTHER TRANSITIONAL SERVICES: DE-  
20 PARTMENT OF LABOR.—Section 1144 of title 10, United  
21 States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
23 following:

24 “(11) Provide information on public service op-  
25 portunities, training on public service job recruiting,

1 and the advantages of careers with the Federal Gov-  
2 ernment.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (f)(1)(D)—

4 (A) by redesignating clause (v) as clause  
5 (vi); and

6 (B) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-  
7 lowing new clause:

8 “(v) National and community service,  
9 taught in conjunction with the Chief Executive  
10 Officer of the Corporation for National and  
11 Community Service.”.

12 (c) AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE CHIEF EXEC-  
13 UTIVE OFFICER.—Section 193A(b) of the National and  
14 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651d(b))  
15 is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (24), by striking “and” at the  
17 end;

18 (2) in paragraph (25), by striking the period at  
19 the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
21 paragraph:

22 “(26) ensure that individuals completing a par-  
23 tial or full term of service in a program under sub-  
24 title C or E or part A of title I of the Domestic Vol-  
25 unteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.)



1 receive information about military and public service  
2 opportunities for which they may qualify or in which  
3 they may be interested.”.

4 **SEC. 5. JOINT REPORT TO CONGRESS ON INITIATIVES TO**  
5 **INTEGRATE MILITARY AND NATIONAL SERV-**  
6 **ICE.**

7 (a) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 4  
8 years after the date of enactment of this Act and quadren-  
9 nially thereafter, the Chair of the Interagency Council on  
10 Service, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the  
11 Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National  
12 and Community Service, and the Director of the Peace  
13 Corps, shall submit a joint report on cross-service mar-  
14 keting, research, and promotion, including recommenda-  
15 tions for increasing joint advertising and recruitment ini-  
16 tiatives for the Armed Forces, programs administered by  
17 the Corporation for National and Community Service, and  
18 the Peace Corps, to the following congressional commit-  
19 tees:

20 (1) The Committee on Homeland Security and  
21 Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

22 (2) The Committee on Homeland Security of  
23 the House of Representatives.

24 (3) The Committee on Oversight and Account-  
25 ability of the House of Representatives.

1           (4) The Committee on Armed Services of the  
2       Senate.

3           (5) The Committee on Armed Services of the  
4       House of Representatives.

5           (6) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
6       Senate.

7           (7) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
8       House of Representatives.

9           (8) The Committee on Health, Education,  
10      Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

11          (9) The Committee on Education and the  
12      Workforce of the House of Representatives.

13      (b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report under sub-  
14      section (a) shall include the following:

15          (1) The number of Peace Corps volunteers and  
16      participants in national service programs adminis-  
17      tered by the Corporation for National and Commu-  
18      nity Service, who previously served as a member of  
19      the Armed Forces.

20          (2) The number of members of the Armed  
21      Forces who previously served in the Peace Corps or  
22      in a program administered by the Corporation for  
23      National and Community Service.

24          (3) An assessment of existing (as of the date of  
25      the report submission) joint recruitment and adver-

1 tising initiatives undertaken by the Department of  
2 Defense, the Peace Corps, or the Corporation for  
3 National and Community Service.

4 (4) An assessment of the feasibility and cost of  
5 expanding such existing initiatives.

6 (5) An assessment of ways to improve the abil-  
7 ity of the reporting agencies to recruit individuals  
8 from the other reporting agencies.

9 (6) A description of the information and data  
10 used to develop any initiative or campaign intended  
11 to advance military service or national service, in-  
12 cluding with respect to any activity carried out  
13 under section 3.

14 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Chair of the Interagency  
15 Council on Service, the Secretary of Defense, the Chief  
16 Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and  
17 Community Service, and the Director of the Peace Corps  
18 shall undertake studies of recruiting efforts that are nec-  
19 essary to carry out the provisions of this section. Such  
20 studies may be conducted using any funds appropriated  
21 to those entities under Federal law other than this Act.

22 **SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON LESSONS LEARNED RE-**  
23 **GARDING RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT.**

24 The Chair of the Interagency Council on Service  
25 shall—

1 (1) conduct a study on—

2 (A) the effectiveness of past advertising  
3 campaigns for military service, national service,  
4 and public service; and

5 (B) the role of vaccine requirements on the  
6 retention and recruitment of individuals for  
7 military service, national service, and public  
8 service; and

9 (2) not later than 270 days after the date of  
10 enactment of this Act, submit a report on the find-  
11 ings of and lessons learned from the study under  
12 paragraph (1) to—

13 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security  
14 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

15 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security  
16 of the House of Representatives.

17 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON SERVICE.—The  
20 term “Interagency Council on Service” means the  
21 Interagency Council on Service established by sec-  
22 tion 2(a).

23 (2) MILITARY DEPARTMENT.—The term “mili-  
24 tary department” means each of the military depart-

1       ments listed in section 102 of title 5, United States  
2       Code.

3           (3) **MILITARY SERVICE.**—The term “military  
4       service” means active service (as defined in sub-  
5       section (d)(3) of section 101 of title 10, United  
6       States Code) or active status (as defined in sub-  
7       section (d)(4) of such section) in one of the Armed  
8       Forces (as defined in subsection (a)(4) of such sec-  
9       tion).

10          (4) **NATIONAL SERVICE.**—The term “national  
11       service” means participation, other than military  
12       service or public service, in a program that—

13           (A) is designed to enhance the common  
14       good and meet the needs of communities, the  
15       States, or the United States;

16           (B) is funded or facilitated by—

17           (i) an institution of higher education  
18       as defined in section 101 of the Higher  
19       Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);  
20       or

21           (ii) the Federal Government or a  
22       State, Tribal, or local government; and

23           (C) is a program authorized in—

24           (i) the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.  
25       2501 et seq.);

1 (ii) section 171 of the Workforce In-  
2 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.  
3 3226) relating to the YouthBuild Program;

4 (iii) the Domestic Volunteer Service  
5 Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.); or

6 (iv) the National and Community  
7 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et  
8 seq.).

9 (5) PUBLIC SERVICE.—The term “public serv-  
10 ice” means civilian employment in the Federal Gov-  
11 ernment or a State, Tribal, or local government.

12 (6) SERVICE.—The term “service” means a  
13 personal commitment of time, energy, and talent to  
14 a mission that contributes to the public good by pro-  
15 tecting the Nation and the citizens of the United  
16 States, strengthening communities, States, or the  
17 United States, or promoting the general social wel-  
18 fare.

19 (7) STATE SERVICE COMMISSION.—The term  
20 “State Service Commission” means a State Commis-  
21 sion on National and Community Service maintained  
22 by a State pursuant to section 178 of the National  
23 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
24 12638).

1 **SEC. 8. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**

2 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
3 priated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

4 **SEC. 9. GAO REPORT.**

5 Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment  
6 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
7 shall report to Congress on the effectiveness of this Act  
8 and the amendments made by this Act.