

## Should schools have to share student data with Selective Service?

Libertarians oppose federal rule that makes another Vietnam more likely

**WASHINGTON, DC** — A new law that requires public schools to turn over student information to military recruiters should be scrapped, Libertarians say, because educators shouldn't have to help send their students off to die in senseless foreign wars.

"Apparently the government believes the three R's should stand for reading, writing — and recruiting," said George Getz, Libertarian Party communications director. "Schools are supposed to be supplying an education to their students, not supplying their students to the armed forces."

**A little-noticed amendment to the elementary and secondary education funding bill signed earlier this year by President Bush requires public high schools to turn over students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters.**

The measure, which has sparked controversy in New York and other states, is designed to help the Selective Service track down 18-year-old males who have neglected to register for the draft as required by federal law.

But Libertarians are asking why so many youths choose not to register.

"Students know that the draft has been used as a tool to wage senseless wars that the public rightly opposed, such as Vietnam and Korea," Getz said. "They also know that presidents have a habit of sending them to fight in places totally unrelated to U.S. national security, like Bosnia, Haiti, Panama, Somalia, Lebanon, and Iraq.

**"No wonder so many students are reluctant to register: They don't want to die defending someone else's country."**

History shows a draft has never been needed to defend the USA, Libertarians note.

"Anytime this nation was actually attacked, as it was at Pearl Harbor and on September 11, Americans rushed to volunteer for military service," Getz said. "It's only when U.S. national security is not at stake that politicians turn to coercion and conscription.

"If the government wants to ensure that Americans will always be eager to defend their country, it doesn't have to turn teachers into informants for the Selective Service. All it has to do is adopt a truly defensive foreign policy of neutrality and non-intervention."