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<http://frist.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:

Finance  
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Rules and Administration

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4205

February 1, 2005

Mr. Mervin L. Evans  
Post Office Box 71351  
Los Angeles, California 90071

Dear Mr. Evans:

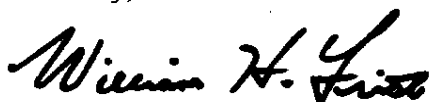
Thank you for contacting me regarding a military draft. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as ~~Majority Leader in the United States Senate~~, and it is a privilege to respond to your concerns.

Although rumors persist to the contrary, there is no effort within Congress to reinstate the draft. In fact, legislation to reinstate the draft, H.R. 163 introduced by Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY), was soundly defeated on October 5, 2004, in the House of Representatives by a margin of 402-2, with Representative Rangel voting against his own legislation. Corresponding legislation in the Senate, S. 89, was introduced on January 7, 2003, by Senator Fritz Hollings (D-SC). There are no plans to bring this legislation before the full Senate.

The Department of Defense has reported that there is no compelling military rationale for resuming the draft to meet current manpower needs. The United States Military has operated on a volunteer basis for the past 30 years and has been very successful in recruiting and retaining a high caliber of men and women to preserve freedom in our country. As a result, our military is the finest in the world, and its volunteer members have a remarkable sense of mission. That is why I support President Bush in opposing calls from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reinstate the draft.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I hope that you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me throughout my tenure in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,



William H. Frist, M.D.  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

P.S. Please visit <http://frist.senate.gov> to register for my e-mail newsletter.