

Conf
Pam
#727

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Petition protes
Conf Pam #727

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Civil War
Va. 1862


P E T I T I O N

PROTESTING AGAINST

ENROLLING AS MILITIA

VOLUNTEERS NOW IN SERVICE,

&c. &c. &c.



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PETITION.

Whereas the legislature of Virginia has now under consideration a bill enrolling as militia, and for draft, all the volunteers now in service; said draft to be made on or before the 1st day of April 1862, while the several terms of service of these volunteers expire from one to three months later :

And whereas volunteer companies cannot be organized with less than 68 men, while most of the companies now in service have their numbers so diminished by disease and death, that their strength falls far short of the requirement of the law, rendering it impossible for them to re-enlist under their present organizations; and being deprived by their duties *now*, and the provisions of said bill, from *hereafter* increasing their numbers to the required quota, thereby making their voluntary re-enlistment, even without the threat hanging over them, almost if not quite impossible:

And whereas said bill expressly declares that there shall in no respect, as to standing, rank, honor or otherwise, be known any difference between men who enlist willingly, and those who are driven by force into their country's service; while in addition to this, the militia drafted officers (whose commissions must antedate those of tried and experienced officers who may be reappointed when their present terms of service shall expire) will, in all cases where volunteers and drafted men serve together, outrank these officers of tried and acknowledged ability :

And whereas, finally, the express intention of said bill *seems* to be to ignore the patriotism and self-sacrifice of the 70,000 Virginians now in the field, and to withhold from them the gratitude to which they are entitled :

We, the undersigned, volunteers now in the field, beg leave to protest against the passage of so unjust and tyrannical a law.

We furthermore declare, that while renewing our pledge of devotion to the cause in which we are engaged, we will not, in the event of such an enactment by our state legislature, serve under the flag of Virginia, but will enlist under a banner where patriotism is valued, self-sacrifice appreciated, and services acknowledged.

The flag of our Confederacy, bathed in the blood of patriots, and consecrated by their devotion, has never yet been dishonored. Under it we will fight as Virginians—expatriated Virginians, if it must be—never as militia.

T. W. Davis.
Geo. H. Caperton.
R. C. Wilson.
F. Harris.
Jno. P. Dawson.

Levi C. Wheat.
Jos. A. Jones.
Grigg T. Cundliff.
Jas. H. Pollard.
John Wilson.

[Signatures continued on next page.]

Jesse Irvine.	Jos. W. Hatcher.
Frank Scott.	Jos. B. Joplin.
Alex. L. Halsey.	Jno. F. Hurt.
Stephen P. Halsey.	John M. Pollard.
Jero. A. Hunter.	J. R. Bower.
A. N. Burton.	Wm. O. Wilkerson.
Thomas McFall.	Hardage Bridges.
Edward P. Wilkerson.	Wm. F. Wingfield.
William N. Penn.	Sam'l L. Hagermon.
E. R. Talbott.	Minnis C. Gibbs.
John A. Bigbie.	Benjamin A. Ferrel.
George W. Turpin.	John J. Ferrel.
D. L. Jenkins.	L. H. Wood.
Thos. W. Nelson, M. D.	Abner N. Hatcher.
Samuel C. Hurt.	Jerome A. Hunter.
Jesse Hare Read.	R. B. Dooley.
Jno. A. Nelson, M. D.	Jno. B. Irvine.
A. J. Almond, M. D.	Francis T. Meriwether.
C. H. Almond.	G. D. Meriwether.
Thos. S. West.	R. A. Hunter.
Samuel C. Pollard.	Corbin Wilkes.
T. H. Howard.	Jno. S. Kasey.

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