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The Religious Society of Friends within the  
limits of Baltimore Yearly Meeting embracing  
Maryland, Virginia, & the adjacent parts of Penn.  
Delaware, would respectfully memorialize Congress  
in relation to the Conscription Bill now pending

Loyal to our country and sincerely desirous to  
be able consistently to obey its laws, we would  
respectfully represent that the religious principles  
which we have consistently maintained since  
the rise of our Society, more than two centuries  
ago, on the Subject of war, forbid our assumption  
of arms for any cause even that of Self defence,  
Such principles being, as we believe, founded upon  
the plain commands of our Saviour & his Apostles,  
For this reason we cannot perform military Ser-  
vice, nor can we in conscience voluntarily pay  
a fine in order to be exempt therefrom.

We therefore respectfully ask that some relief be  
afforded to our conscientious Scruples in these  
respects,

We earnestly desire that the Divine blessing  
may attend all your deliberations, and rest upon  
our beloved country,

Signed by direction on behalf of the Repre-  
sentatives of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends  
at a Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> Month 25<sup>th</sup> 1863

Francis T King

Clerk for the day

Then concluded Francis T King Clerk for the day

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At a Meeting for Sufferings held in Baltimore  
the 16<sup>th</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo 1863

Present 13 Members

The proceedings of an informal sitting of this Meeting  
were read and approved, and this Meeting ratifies them,  
as a part of its proceedings.

The committee to visit Washington with a copy of the  
Memorial reported that two of their number attended the  
sitting of Congress in company with a delegation  
from New York Representative Meeting, and had an  
interview with the chairman of the Committee on  
Military affairs they were kindly received, & the Memor-  
ial was read in the Senate but as the Session was  
about closing it was too late to effect any amend-  
ment for the relief of our religious Scruples on  
the Subject of war.

We would commend the Subject to the continued  
care of the Meeting, trusting that Strength will  
be experienced to abide faithful in this important  
testimony to the peaceable character of Christ's Kingdom  
in whatever trials may await us,

Francis T King, James C Thomas, James Cary and  
Richard M Sargent are appointed a committee to  
take under their special care the effect of the  
conscription act on our Members, which has  
recently passed Congress, also to represent this Meet-  
ing, in any conference with committees of other Meet-  
ings for Sufferings, if such are appointed.