

Majority of Israelis reject haredi IDF exemption bill - INSS survey

Most (68%) of Israelis are against a blanket exemption from IDF service for haredim, but not everyone thinks they should all be serving in the army.

By Yonah Jeremy Bob / Sep. 13, 2023

Sixty-eight percent of the general public opposes the Knesset bill that would grant a blanket exemption for haredim from IDF service, the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) said Wednesday in a report.

Around one-third of parents with children ages 16-18, meaning in the middle of the IDF recruitment years, said they would discourage their children from joining combat units, or possibly military service entirely, if the bill passes, according to the survey by the Tel Aviv University-based research institute.

Twenty-five percent of the respondents said they supported the bill, and 7% said they were not sure, the report said.

“The results support the concern that the expected draft exemption bill [for haredim] will cause fatal harm to the model of the people’s army, and it will undermine the status of serving in the IDF as well as the ethos of the mandatory draft,” the INSS said.

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