



Senator Charles Schumer
Chairman, Senate Rules Committee
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Support for S.1415, “Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act”

Dear Chairman Schumer,

July 13, 2009

The purpose of this letter is to voice our wholehearted support for the S.1415, the “Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act”. We congratulate you and your colleagues, Senators Chambliss and Nelson, on the excellent crafting of this bold and comprehensive bill. We believe that S.1415 clears the way for much needed modernization of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and that it will infuse new momentum into the program.

Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that focuses on the facilitation and increased participation of overseas and military voters. We do this through the development of online UOCAVA voter services for voters and states. Your proposed legislation is of primary interest to our organization, our work and our mission. We are encouraged by the forward-thinking approach you have taken to many of the long-term persistent problems that have hampered the improvement and increased enfranchisement of overseas and military voters.

OVF applauds your efforts to amend UOCAVA. We will work with your staff to suggest a few minor changes, which, we believe will further strengthen the legislation, and expect that other experts, states, and organizations will also provide feedback for consideration. As we know from our own post-election UOCAVA research and that of other organizations and agencies focused on the challenge of UOCAVA voting, the program will benefit from the reforms outlined in S.1415.

OVF looks forward to working with you as needed to assure the successful passing of S.1415. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance in your honorable efforts to improve the effectiveness of this important voting program.

With kind regards,

Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat
President and CEO, Overseas Vote Foundation

