

M. ERIC EVERSOLE

227 A STREET, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

TELEPHONE 202-487-8146
E-MAIL cversolemc@msn.com

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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schumer and Ranking Member Bennett:

I write to offer my strong support for the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act). As I emphasized during the Committee's May 13, 2009 hearing, the Federal government has a special obligation to ensure that our men and women in uniform have an opportunity to vote and must take immediate action to protect their rights. The MOVE Act goes a long way toward accomplishing these goals and will greatly improve the ability of military members to vote in Federal elections.

At the outset, the drafters of the MOVE Act should be applauded for: (1) designating certain military offices as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act; (2) requiring express delivery for absentee ballots for overseas military voters; (3) requiring States to send registration and absentee ballot materials via electronic mail and facsimile; and (4) providing a date certain by which States have to send blank absentee ballots to military and overseas voters. Not only will military voters have greater opportunities to register and request absentee ballots under the MOVE Act, they will have confidence that their ballots will be received and counted by local election officials. The MOVE Act is a comprehensive solution to a problem that has long been ignored.

While I believe that the MOVE Act as drafted can be improved in several key areas, including the provisions regarding the state deadline for sending absentee ballots (section 5), the express mail delivery requirements (section 6), and the designation of military voter registration agencies (section 9), it is my understanding that Committee members are working in a bipartisan manner to achieve that result. Thank you in advance for your hard work on this important issue.

Respectfully,



M. Eric Eversole