

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2008

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker,

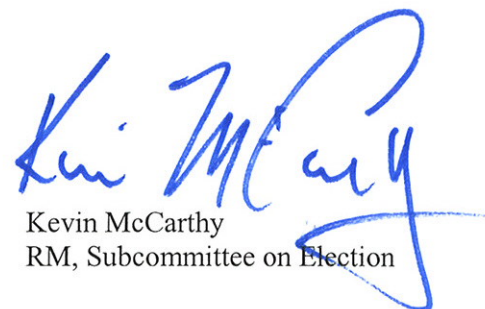
The 2008 General Election is fast approaching and our men and women in uniform are being disenfranchised because our voting system for absentee ballots is broken. We respectfully request that the House Leadership work in a bipartisan manner to quickly move and pass H.R. 5673, the "Military Voting Protection Act of 2008" (the MVP Act) with a renewed level of urgency.

The Election Assistance Commission assesses that only 5.5% of eligible overseas and absentee voters in uniform actually had their votes counted in the 2006 mid-term election.¹ 992,000 ballots were requested for that same election, but only 330,000 ballots were cast or counted.² 48,628 uniformed and overseas ballots were rejected in 2006 because many were filled out incorrectly.³ We should do much better to ensure our military men and women are able to successfully exercise this fundamental right. The MVP Act requires expedited ballot delivery from overseas locations using private express delivery with full tracking capability. This is a critical first-step to getting these overseas ballots counted on time.

In 1952 President Harry Truman wrote to Congress regarding military absentee voting. He said, "At a time when these young people are defending our country...the least we at home can do is to make sure that they are able to enjoy the rights they are being asked to fight to preserve." He was right. Our men and women in uniform serve in the far corners of the globe in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy as American citizens. We owe it to every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine to ensure that they and their families are afforded the ability to vote like every other American of appropriate qualification, and that their vote counts in the General Election.

Sincerely,


Trent Franks
RM, Subcommittee on the Constitution


Kevin McCarthy
RM, Subcommittee on Election

¹ EAC. *The 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey: Highlights from the 2006 UOCAVA survey.*

² Defense Manpower Data Center.

³ EAC. *The 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey: Highlights from the 2006 UOCAVA survey.*

Randy Kuhl

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Rady Mosher

T. Johnson

Joe Wilson

Dean Miller

W. Coe

Kenneth J. Ehlers

Phil Ringrey

Doug Lamborn

Miss Fortin

Jo Bonner

Rayfield

Mike Ryan (MC)

Terry Everett

Rodney Alexander

Lamar Smith

Howard P. Buck "McKen"

Robert J. With

Mary Fuller

John Kline

Jeff Miller

Ronie Lehman

Ann

Erica

Ji Jordan

Butzali

Ray Hunt

Walter Dancy

cc Hon. Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader of the House of Representatives

Hon. John Boehner
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

Hon. Roy Blunt
Minority Whip of the House of Representatives