



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 838-8113

February 23, 2011

Dear State Legislator:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent military and veteran organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, supports the Department of Defense (DoD) State Liaison Office's efforts in encouraging states to pass legislation to improve absentee voting for military members and their families.

The Military Coalition is pleased that your state is considering adopting the *Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act* (UMOVA) which was drafted in 2010 in response to significant obstacles that overseas military personnel and civilians face in exercising their right to vote. These obstacles include difficulty in registering from abroad, frequent address changes, slow mail delivery, inadequate time to return finished ballots once materials are received, ballots and ballot applications that never arrive, difficulty in obtaining information about candidates or issues, the inability to comply with notarization or verification procedures, or the voter's failure to properly comply with non-essential requirements for absentee materials.

In 2009, the U.S. Congress passed the *Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act* amendments to the federal *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA), as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act* (FY09 NDAA). Although the MOVE Act was an important step toward alleviating the difficulties faced by these voters, individual state attempts to comply have not been wholly effective in overcoming these difficulties, and the federal laws do not encompass state and local elections. Further, elections are conducted under procedures that vary between jurisdictions, and many are conducted independent of the federal elections to which UOCAVA and MOVE apply. Lack of uniformity, and lack of application to the federal statutes to state and local elections, complicates efforts to fully enfranchise these voters.

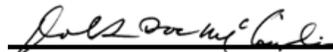
UMOVA will significantly assist states in meeting the statutory mandates of the recently enacted MOVE Act amendments, and expands upon those important protections and benefits for covered voters and elections at all levels. The act provides a common sense, state law solution to military and overseas voting obstacles, and strengthens efforts to comply with recently imposed federal requirements.

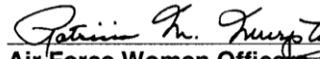
State support for service members and their families is crucial to the well-being of military families. By adopting this legislation, you are supporting both current and future military families within your state. Thank you for your support of our service members and their families.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(Signatures enclosed)

  
Air Force Association

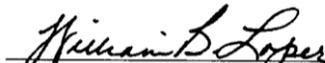
  
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

  
Air Force Women Officers  
Associated

  
AMVETS

  
Army Aviation Assn. of America

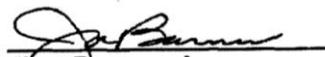
  
Assn. of Military Surgeons  
of the United States

  
Assn. of the US Army

  
Association of the United States Navy

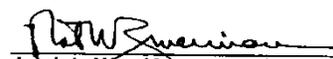
  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of  
the US Public Health Service, Inc

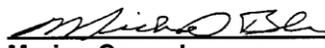
  
CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard

  
Fleet Reserve Assn.

  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans  
of America

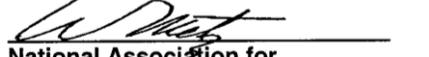
  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

  
Marine Corps League

  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

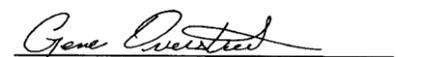
  
Military Officers Assn. of America

  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

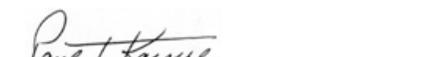
  
National Association for  
Uniformed Services

  
National Guard Assn. of the US

  
National Military Family Assn.

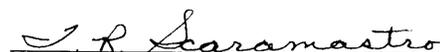
  
Non Commissioned Officers Assn.  
of the United States of America

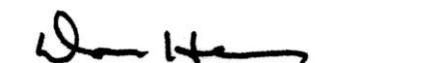
  
Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US

  
Reserve Officers Assn

  
Society of Medical Consultants  
to the Armed Forces

  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

  
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US