

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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April 17, 2008

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chair  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Elections, House Administration Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member McCarthy:

On behalf of the 2.3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and its' Auxiliaries, I am writing in strong support of H.R. 5673, the Military Voting Protection Act (MVP Act).

As you know, the September 2007 Election Assistance Commission (EAC) report on military and overseas absentee voting concluded that the third largest reason for rejected ballots was that they were received by the election offices after the deadline stipulated by State law. Consequently, if enacted, the MVP Act would ensure absentee ballots submitted by military personnel, who have little control over the geographic location of their duty assignments, are delivered to election officials in a timely fashion.

At a time when our brave men and women in uniform are protecting our liberties and preserving freedom abroad, it is paramount that we ensure they are not disenfranchised of their right to vote. In fact, when I travel overseas to visit with members of the military, the issue of absentee ballots being delivered from state election officials in a less-than-timely manner is often brought to my attention. Including language in this measure that would mandate or strongly encourage State governments to ensure sufficient time is allotted for military personnel to apply for, receive, and return ballots would go a long way to alleviate this problem.

I look forward to working with you to move this legislation forward and request you schedule it for a hearing as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support on issues affecting our military men and women.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL H. WYSONG, Director  
National Security and Foreign Affairs