



JENNIFER BRUNNER
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The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
2332 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-3214

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

I write to extend my support of H.R. 1739, which would amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Passage of the Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act of 2009 is a necessary step to further protect the voting rights of our military and overseas citizens, who deserve our best efforts to ease the voting process.

Passage of this bill would clarify any ambiguity concerning the Federal Post Card Application, whose purpose is not clear enough in the law in its current form. This seemingly small change resonates with the overall principles of the bill: common sense and simplicity. In addition, eliminating instances where an otherwise valid application or ballot would be rejected for technical reasons that may differ from state to state ensures that consistency and fairness are extended to uniformed services and overseas voters.

Far too often, otherwise valid UOCAVA voter ballots are rejected for failing to meet nonessential legal requirements. But after passage of this bill, overseas Ohioans who are not located near a U.S. Embassy or Consulate will be relieved that notarization of ballot materials will no longer be required. Likewise, state laws that would disqualify a ballot because it was delivered by means other than the U.S. Postal Service could be problematic for overseas voters. This bill will ensure that more Ohioan and American voices will be heard during the elections process.

Ohio believes in its military and overseas voters. We have a duty to provide our men and women serving our state and country with the most efficient process to ensure their votes are counted. In recognition of their sacrifice, this office promoted the Vote in Honor of a Veteran initiative, permitting voters to honor the sacrifices made by the courageous members of our military branches in protecting our democracy. This office also partnered with the Overseas Voting Foundation to streamline the voter registration process for uniformed service and overseas voters using Web technology.

In short, Ohio supports the standardization of the absentee registration and voting process for uniformed and overseas voters. I appreciate the opportunity to support this needed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Brunner".

Jennifer Brunner