



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Robert A. Brady
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6167

RE: H.R. 1739 – Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act of 2009

Dear Chairman Brady:

I am writing in support of H.R. 1739 – Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act of 2009 – which would make several significant improvements to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, including:

- Eliminating technical restraints on the acceptance of absentee ballots where such restraints are not necessary to the prevention of election fraud or for other purposes;
- Providing greater clarity of procedures for overseas voters;
- Allowing voters to request absentee ballots in all subsequent elections;
- Establishing needed consistency across all states;
- Creating a competitive grant program for nonpartisan organizations to expand outreach and education for overseas voters.

H.R. 1739 would go a long way toward improving access to the ballot for our military and overseas voters by taking advantage of technological developments, providing greater clarity of procedures for voters and election officials and ensuring consistency among the states. I view H.R. 1739 as a practical next step in providing needed clarification and an update of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, a next step that will greatly enhance the access of our military and overseas citizens to the ballot without undue burden or cost to states.

As Secretary of the State of Connecticut, I do everything I can to make sure that our men and women serving Connecticut and this nation abroad have an efficient, effective way to participate in our electoral process. Over the past year, my office has worked with organizations such as the Overseas Vote Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts and others, to identify and propose legislative changes at the state level. I applaud the efforts

of Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Congressman Michael Honda and other sponsors to lead at the federal level. Standardization of the process for uniformed and overseas voters would be a great service.

I appreciate the opportunity to support this needed legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Bysiewicz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light green rectangular background behind it.

Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State of Connecticut

Cc: Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney; Congressman Michael M. Honda