

Military voting advocates support military-specific provisions of "For the People Act"

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In advance of the U.S. Senate's consideration of S.1 "For the People Act," we the undersigned military family and veteran support organizations are writing in support of a number of provisions in this bill that we believe reduce barriers to voting experienced by our community.

Given the importance of voting for all Americans, and the unique barriers that our community of voters in particular experiences, we want to commend the U.S. Senate for including certain components in S.1 that safeguard the ability for military service members and their families to cast their ballots. Title 1, Section J reinforces an important existing 45-day deadline for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots to be sent out. It also increases mandatory election reporting to Congress, to ensure accountability on the local and state level. This section expands the ability for UOCAVA voters to bring private legal action against states that violate their voting rights. Finally, Section J closes a residency protection loophole for military dependents who move home during deployments.

There are plenty of sections in S.1 that do not address military voters directly, and so this statement should not be misconstrued as a blanket endorsement of all aspects of S.1. Rather, our organizations see this as an opportunity to support the provisions relevant to the stakeholders we represent. If S.1 does not advance, we encourage future federal voting legislation to incorporate these important changes.

Signed,

Human Rights First
Modern Military Association of America
National Military Family Association
Secure Families Initiative
Veterans for American Ideals

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