

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O



For Release:
April 11, 2002

Contact: Sean Conway
(202) 224-6207
Kelly Brady
(202) 224-5946

ALLARD MILITARY VOTER BILL APPROVED BY SENATE LEGISLATION IMPROVES VOTING STANDARDS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Senate has approved legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) which will enhance the voting ability of absentee military voters. Senator Allard’s legislation would strengthen military personnel’s ability to vote by addressing many of the problems which impede their ability to cast a vote or have that vote counted while serving their country in the military. The legislation was included in the bipartisan election reform bill approved by the Senate 99-1 on Thursday afternoon.

“At the very moment we are asking our service men and women to win the war on terrorism we need to ensure they will continue to enjoy the same rights and freedoms they dedicate their lives to protecting,” Allard said following the Senate’s passage of the election reform bill. “My legislation will help ensure that our men and women in uniform do not have their right to vote questioned or even compromised while they are serving our country in uniform at home or abroad.”

The legislation was co-sponsored by U.S. Senators George Allen (R-VA), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Susan Collins (R-ME), Phil Gramm (R-TX), Richard Lugar (R-IN), Bob Smith (R-NH) and Pat Roberts (R-KS).

Allard’s Military Voter Amendment would require the following:

- 1) Prohibit a state from disqualifying a ballot based upon lack of postmark or witness signature alone, for lacking a notarized signature, address, foreign postmark, or reasonably similar signatures.
- 2) Military voters who are discharged and move before an election but after the residency deadline cannot vote through the military absentee ballot system, and sometimes are not able to fulfill deadlines to establish residency in a State. This amendment would allow them to register through the absentee process and vote in person at their new polling site.
- 3) Prohibit states from denying a military ballot because it is mailed in too early.
- 4) Language directing the DoD to mail a copy of current military voter laws to every state to be distributed to each voting jurisdiction.

“I hope the passage of this legislation by the Senate demonstrates to our service men and women we value their service to our country and we want to ensure their voice is heard at the ballot box,” concluded Allard.

###