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FOR JUSTICE

Brennan Center for Justice  
*at New York University School of Law*

161 Avenue of the Americas  
12th Floor  
New York, New York 10013  
212.998.6730 Fax 212.995.4550  
www.brennancenter.org

October 7, 2009

*Via Telefax*

The Honorable Representative Ike Skelton  
The Honorable Representative Howard P. McKeon  
United States House of Representatives Armed Services Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Senator Carl Levin  
The Honorable Senator John McCain  
United State Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Skelton and Levin, and Ranking Members McKeon and McCain:

In 1952, President Truman called on Congress to ensure that members of the United States Armed Forces had a meaningful right to vote. More than a half-century later, there are still intolerable burdens that make it difficult for members of the military – as well as American citizens who live overseas – to vote. To remedy this inexcusable situation, we urge you to support the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, contained in the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1390).

Since it was signed into law by President Reagan two decades ago, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) has helped millions of Americans – those serving in our military, their spouses and family, and civilians living and working overseas – to vote in federal elections. But recent reports from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, the Overseas Vote Foundation, and the Pew Center on the States have confirmed that, despite the improvements made by UOCAVA, these voters still face significant hurdles to participating in elections that are not experienced by most Americans. It is critical that Congress take action now to ensure that our troops and citizens abroad have the tools they need to make their voices heard in future elections.

