



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, Ranking Members McLachlan, Hwang and members of the GAE Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in support of **SB 753: AN ACT CONCERNING ON-LINE VOTING FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED OUT OF STATE.**

This bill would allow access to online voting for Connecticut's military personnel that are stationed out of state. Currently, members of our military can submit applications for absentee voting online, but cannot cast their ballot over a secure website.

The federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act), amended in 2009, made sweeping changes in support of military and overseas voters, but did not include online voting. The MOVE Act is often misunderstood as requiring online voting, however, it doesn't do that. It does require outbound electronic transmission of blank ballots and voting information - but it does not require adopting the return of voted ballots.

Finding a secure online system would help to solve the problem of military absentee ballots that often times come in too late to be counted. Many times the onerous process for voting overseas doesn't return in a timely manner and often does not get counted in elections.

Several states are moving in this direction. In Arizona, the Secretary of State's Military and Overseas Voting system will allow registered voters to apply for early ballots online and then submit their ballots electronically using a document scanner. Just last week, the Washington State Senate passed a similar bill requiring that armed forces members only have to send in a scanned copy of their ballot and signature via e-mail.

Providing online voting for military personnel could significantly prevent the disfranchisement of those who are serving abroad, to ensure that their vote is properly counted. I urge you to vote favorably on this measure.