



**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

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Rep. Whisnant help's Assure Military Votes Count

Bill passes House which allows military to vote by fax

Representative Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) moved through the House today HB 2511A to allow military personnel overseas to vote by fax. The bill passed 58-0 with 2 excused and was initiated by Rep. Whisnant to be sure that the vote of overseas military personnel and other Americans living overseas will be counted.

“I have worked on this issue in each session and am optimistic that the bill will pass this session and become effective January 1, 2010,” Rep. Whisnant commented.

Recently, US Senator Charles Schumer (D-New York) is the chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. He reported that one out of every four ballots requested by military personnel and other Americans living overseas for the 2008 election was counted. This indicates that the balloting process for service members is clearly in need of an overhaul.

Rep. Whisnant said, “Based upon my 27 year military career with over 7 years overseas, I know that there are problems with the absentee voting systems for military serving overseas.” Although Oregon’s record is better than most states; I believe our goal should be that every vote is counted.”

“HB 2511A is a great step toward achieving our goal,” added Rep. Whisnant. “I appreciate the cooperation and ‘can-do’ attitude of the Secretary of State Kate Brown and her staff to create this policy.”

I requested Senator(s) Devlin, Boquist, and Representative Barker as Chief Co-Sponsors in the spirit of bi-partisanship to help assure passage of this important bill. It is very appropriate that we had the opportunity to vote on this bill affecting our Military on the eve of Memorial Day Weekend which is dedicated to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and our freedoms and right to vote.

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