

Congressman Mike Coffman (R-CO) today offered an amendment to the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act to improve the voting system for military personnel.

“Anybody who pays the slightest bit of attention to the issue of military voting knows that we have a significant problem.”

As a former Secretary of State for Colorado - the official state election officer - and having been deployed overseas many times in his military career, Congressman Coffman has had significant experience with the problem of guaranteeing election rights to uniformed voters.

“There are some simple steps that can be taken to improve the military voting process and allow those who fight *for* our democracy to fully participate *in* our democracy.”

Coffman’s amendment did two things – it removes the notarization requirement for military ballots where it is still in effect, and permits the submittal of a ballot application form by electronic means, including by fax and email.

“These are simple changes. They will not radically change our voting system, and they will not solve all our problems in this matter. But they will return significant improvement and make it clear that this Congress wants to address the problems that every election brings to light regarding voting by our military men and women.”

Although jurisdictional disagreements forced Congressman Coffman to ultimately withdraw his amendment, he intends to continue to work on improving military voting.

“One out of every four ballots requested by military personnel and other Americans living overseas for the 2008 election may have gone uncounted. This is unacceptable and must be fixed.”