

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2008

Michael W. Hager  
Acting Director  
Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Director Hager:

We are writing with an urgent request to increase the number of hours allowed under the current excused absence policy for federal employees.

As you know, voter turnout in national elections has been on the rise in recent years and many predict record turnout during next week's election. In addition to a record turnout, changes in federal and state election law can be expected to lengthen the amount of time it takes to process each vote. Combined these two factors could generate longer lines at polling sites and delays that exceed the three hour excused absence time federal employees are currently allowed to take.

Given the importance of this election, the importance of voting in our democracy, and longer commuting times in general, we are concerned that federal workers may face the prospect of not voting or violating current federal leave requirements. Additional time for excused absence beyond the current 3 hours would go a long way toward relieving federal employees of this dilemma.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

  
James P. Moran

  
Tom Davis