

Washington, D.C. - Today Congressman John Olver announced that yesterday the House of Representatives passed legislation to ease the passport backlog.

"My office has heard from countless people who have missed vacations or waited months just to receive their passports," said Olver.

Passport requests skyrocketed following the implementation of a new law requiring Americans traveling abroad to have a passport.

There are currently about 3 million passport applications pending that have not been processed. "This is a major problem for many Americans," Olver said.

"Americans shouldn't let red tape delay or derail their vacation plans," added Congressman Olver. "This legislation will help get the backlog cleared up as quickly as possible."

Congressman Olver's office has already assisted a number of residents who have had difficulty obtaining their passports.

- For residents of the Berkshires, contact 413-442-0946;
- For residents of the Pioneer Valley, contact 413-532-7010;
- For residents of North Worcester County, contact 978-342-8722.

Please be advised that, in most cases, assistance can only be provided within two weeks of scheduled departure.

To find out which Congressional District you are in, please enter your zipcode at <http://www.house.gov>