

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2019

Hon. Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

When the House of Representatives and the Senate meet to reconcile the differences between their versions of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2020, we respectfully ask you to provide the highest level of funding possible for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to swiftly make grants to states, territories, and the District of Columbia under the Help America Vote Act of 2002. We further request that you include language requiring grantees to use this federal funding to replace direct-recording electronic voting machines with voting systems that require the use of a voter-verified paper ballot, as well as to address cyber vulnerabilities in election systems, provide election officials with cybersecurity training, institute election system cybersecurity best practices, and make other improvements to the security of federal elections.

The Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-141) provided \$380 million to the EAC for grants to improve the administration of elections, including to enhance election security, and all of that funding has been disbursed by the EAC. No additional funding was provided for this purpose during the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations cycle. The current appropriations cycle represents Congress's last chance to help states and localities harden their election infrastructure before the 2020 election. The House-passed bill for Fiscal Year 2020 (H.R. 3351) provided \$600 million for EAC, while the Senate Appropriations Committee-approved bill (S. 2524) provided only \$250 million. In light of the proven threat posed by Russia—and possibly other foreign powers—to our democratic process, we believe the final bill should provide \$600 million or as close to it as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Co-Chair for Administration, Blue Dog Coalition



Tom O'Halleran
Co-Chair for Policy, Blue Dog Coalition



J. Luis Correa
Co-Chair for Communications, Blue Dog Coalition



Anthony Brindisi
Co-Chair for Whip, Blue Dog Coalition



Jefferson Van Drew
Co-Chair of National Security Task Force,
Blue Dog Coalition



Kendra S. Horn
Co-Chair of National Security Task Force,
Blue Dog Coalition

cc: Hon. Mike Quigley, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Hon. John Kennedy, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Hon. Tom Graves, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Hon. Christopher A. Coons, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government