

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request that you include \$5 billion in election security grants in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to distribute to states and local governments for improvements to the administration of federal elections. Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and we know that you share our commitment to ensuring our elections are well funded so that all Americans can make their voices heard at the ballot box.

During the 2020 general election, nearly 160 million Americans voted – more than ever before, in an election that the Department of Homeland Security called the “most secure in American history.” This was possible with help from the election security grants Congress provided in FYs 2018 and 2020, as well as emergency funding through the *CARES Act* in 2020, which provided election officials with resources to take on the additional obstacles of administering safe and secure elections during the coronavirus pandemic.


While past funding has been critical, we must continue to help both state and local election officials modernize their voting equipment, improve the administration of elections, and strengthen cybersecurity for election systems. Six states still widely use voting systems that do not produce paper ballots. The EAC also recently approved an updated version of the voluntary voting system guidelines that will lead to investments in more modern voting systems. In addition, election officials are facing a surge in threats and harassment that have left many worried for their safety, raising concerns about the ability of state and local governments to retain and recruit officials, workers, and volunteers for future elections.

One analysis published last December found that over the next decade approximately \$50 billion would be needed for election administration and security. Based on this analysis, a group of Secretaries of State and Chief Election Officials have also requested that the federal government provide \$5 billion in election grants for FY 2023.


In addition to annual appropriations, we remain committed to advancing legislation that will provide election officials a reliable stream of funding to make ongoing improvements to election administration. While funding is not a substitute for Congress passing comprehensive legislation to protect the freedom to vote and stop the ongoing attacks on our democracy, we must ensure that state and local election officials continue to receive the resources needed to administer, improve, and modernize our elections.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen our democracy.


Sincerely,



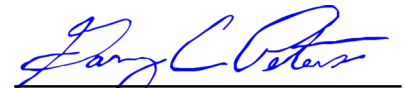
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



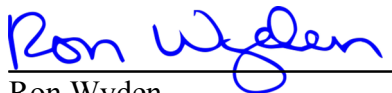
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator




Jack Reed
United States Senator



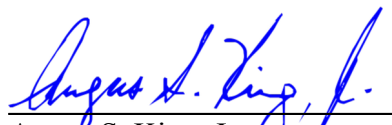
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



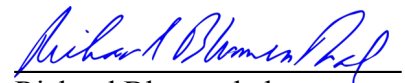
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



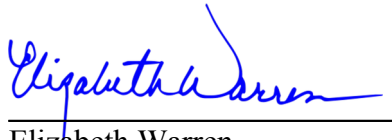
Tina Smith
United States Senator




Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



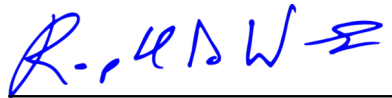
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



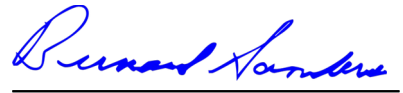
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



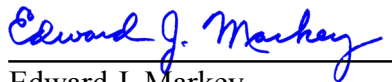
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



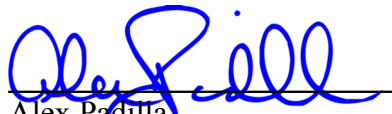
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



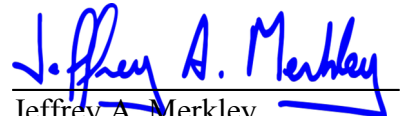
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



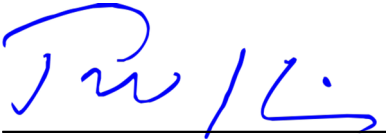
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



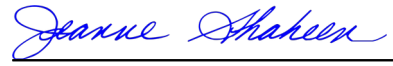
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



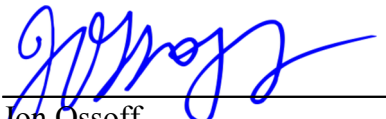
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



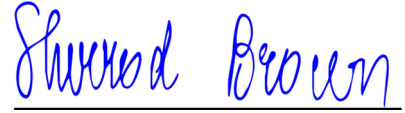
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



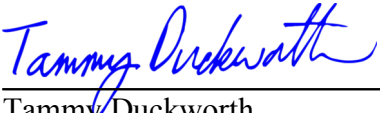
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



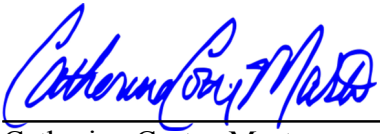
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator