

December 9th, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As you begin to negotiate the final FY 2020 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you give consideration to providing a funding level of \$600 million for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (Public Law 107-252), and \$16.2 million to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) for necessary expenses to carry out HAVA, as approved by the House.

Created in 2002, HAVA provides federal funding to help states protect and improve their elections through enhancement of technology, election security, replacing voting systems, and meeting new standards for administering elections. Unfortunately, there has not been nearly enough federal funding for every state to implement all these needed investments to secure our elections.

Appropriating \$600 million, with the accountability measures set forth in the House funding bill, would help states and localities secure their election systems and update or replace old voting equipment. Providing the EAC with an operating budget of \$16.2 million would allow it to take on crucial election security work, hire additional staff to assist state and local election officials, invest in research on cybersecurity and election security best practices, and develop technical guidelines for voting machines with assistance from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

As we approach the Presidential and other important elections, Congress must be proactive in defending state, local, and federal elections by providing the necessary resources, through HAVA and the EAC, to fortify our country's election infrastructure and security. Through this funding, we can restore the American people's confidence in our elections and protect their sacred right to vote.

We ask that you maintain the funding for our elections at the House-passed levels of \$600 million for HAVA and \$16.2 million for the EAC in any FY 2020 FSGG funding bill. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,





STENY HOYER
Member of Congress



MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress


JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



TERRI SEWELL
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER II
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

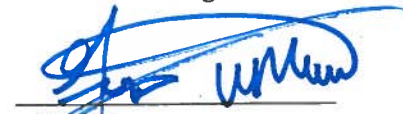

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress


FERROL NADLER
Member of Congress


GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress


JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

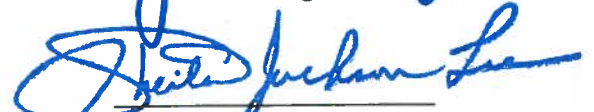

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress


ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress


BEN RAY LUJÁN
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster

BILL FOSTER
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Julia Brownley

JULIA BROWNLEY
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Jared Huffman

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Donald S. Beyer, Jr.

DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
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Earl Blumenauer

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

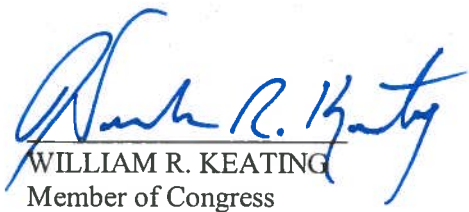
GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.
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