



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

September 8, 2017

The Honorable John McCain  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain and Senator Reed:

As Secretaries of State from across this nation, we write to urge adoption of the amendment proposed by Senators Klobuchar and Graham (S.A. 656) to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (H.R. 2810). Over the past decade, our election processes have become more complex and increasingly dependent on technology. This amendment would provide vital and necessary resources to states to support the growing technology and infrastructure security demands of our nation's elections.

This amendment supports states' efforts to secure, protect, and administer elections by:

- Requiring the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to work with stakeholder groups to develop best practices for elections cyber security and auditing;
- Providing states who wish to adopt these best practices with funds to assist with implementation; and
- Allowing states to use any additional funds to invest in essential election infrastructure such as modern and secure voting machines, improved election registration management systems, or other election technology.

Strengthening and supporting the security of our nation's election system is a bi-partisan issue. As our nation invests in the support and defense of democracies abroad, we ask that Congress assist states in meeting the challenges of securing our nation's democratic process here at home.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in blue ink.

Steve Simon  
Minnesota Secretary of State

Handwritten signature of Kim Wyman in blue ink.

Kim Wyman  
Washington Secretary of State

Handwritten signature of Alex Padilla in blue ink.

Alex Padilla  
California Secretary of State

Handwritten signature of Denise Merrill in blue ink.

Denise Merrill  
Connecticut Secretary of State

September 8, 2017

Page 2




Alison Lundergan Grimes  
Kentucky Secretary of State



Tom Schedler  
Louisiana Secretary of State



Barbara Cegavske  
Nevada Secretary of State



Pedro A. Cortés  
Pennsylvania Secretary the  
Commonwealth



Nellie M. Gorbea  
Rhode Island Secretary of State



Jim Condos  
Vermont Secretary of State