

Holding Power Accountable

June 24, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Common Cause's 1.2 million members around the country, we write in strong support of the Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE) Act, HR 2722, which is expected to be voted on by the full House of Representatives later this week. Russia and other hostile foreign entities continue to try to infiltrate our elections, and we must do everything we can to protect our democracy against future attacks. The SAFE Act is critical legislation to help ensure states and localities get the necessary resources and take key steps to make our election infrastructure resilient in the face of the ongoing attacks. **Common Cause plans to key-vote final passage of the SAFE Act for its next [Democracy Scorecard](#), we strongly encourage a "yes" vote.**

Importantly, the SAFE Act includes the following critical measures:

- It requires that all voting systems produce a voter verifiable paper ballot. Paper ballots are a critical failsafe. If vote tallies are corrupted for any reason, the paper ballots can be used to ascertain the true result. This is a low-tech deterrent to the attempt to tamper with the final vote count by introducing sophisticated malware into the vote tallying system;
- It establishes a grant program so states have necessary resources to conduct risk limiting audits. This type of audit would ensure that the results of the election are correct. Risk limiting audits are the only type of audit that checks election outcomes; they are critical to providing evidence that the outcomes are correct.
- It establishes a grant program through the National Science Foundation to support research and development of systems that enhance the accessibility of paper ballots for people with disabilities, voters whose primary language is not English, and for voters with difficulties in literacy;
- The bill directs the Election Assistance Commission to conduct a study on ways to enhance the usability of ballots;
- The SAFE Act requires vendors to report cybersecurity breaches and other cyber security incidents; and
- The legislation requires vendors to certify their systems to the latest Voluntary Voting System Guidelines and to make source code available for inspection by the public.

Thank you for supporting the SAFE Act to protect our voting systems and our democracy against ongoing attacks and to give confidence to all Americans that our voices can be heard at the ballot box.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause