

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write you today to urge you to immediately appoint an Election Security Coordinator within the Executive Office of the President (EOP) to oversee and organize election security efforts across the federal government. It is clear Russia executed a wide-spread disinformation campaign targeting the American public in order to sow discord, undermine the American public's faith in the democratic process, and ultimately, interfere in the 2016 election. It is imperative the United States act to prevent foreign governments or entities from meddling in the electoral process. Appointing an Election Security Coordinator to the EOP would be an important first step in acknowledging and mitigating these risks to our democracy.

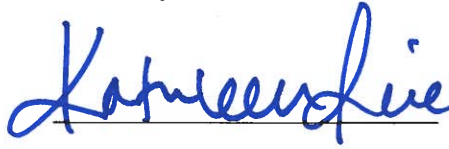
The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI), House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), and the Intelligence Community writ large have all concluded that Russia attempted to meddle in the 2016 election. Last week, the Department of Justice indicted 12 Russian agents for various crimes related to infiltrating the election, in addition to the 13 Russian agents and 3 Russian entities indicted in February. There is overwhelming evidence that Russia is still trying to infiltrate our elections and with the 2018 midterms less than 4 months away, we must take immediate action to counter this threat.

At a House Committee on Homeland Security hearing titled "DHS's Progress in Securing Election Systems and Other Critical Infrastructure", Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Under Secretary Christopher Krebs testified that the Department has a "Countering Foreign Influence Task Force." Similarly, in November, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Director Christopher Wray testified that the agency also has a "Foreign Influence Task Force." Separately, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is tasked with helping state and local election authorities secure their voting systems. Currently, these various task forces and commissions are operating in silos with no formal government entity responsible for facilitating interagency coordination or ensuring government-wide information sharing and cooperation.

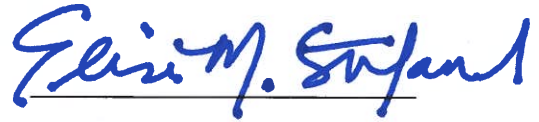
Elections are the foundation of our democracy. Protecting the integrity of the electoral process and limiting foreign influence on American public opinion requires a centralized, senior position within the EOP to effectively manage this threat across government and communicate its urgency. Protecting U.S. national security requires an Election Security Coordinator, and we urge you to appoint someone immediately.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen M. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elise M. Stefanik". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress