

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 31, 2018

Brian Newby
Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East West Highway
Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Newby:

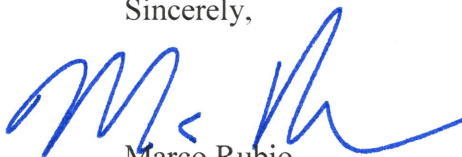
This letter is in support of the Florida Department of State's application for cybersecurity grant funding in advance of the 2018 elections. With less than six months until Election Day, I urge you to promptly approve the State of Florida's request so that the state may expedite their plans to strengthen our election systems.

As a member of the Senate Intelligence and Appropriations committees, I worked with my colleagues to ensure funding would be available to states to enhance the security of our elections. As outlined in the State of Florida's request, this grant funding would be applied to the implementation of critical cybersecurity measures to safeguard the integrity of our elections in 2018 and beyond.

Florida is the third most populous state in the union, and based on reviews of foreign interference in the 2016 election, we know Florida is a target. Federal, state and local governments must take proactive measures to ensure that any future attempts to interfere with voter databases or election infrastructure are not successful, and that when Americans go to vote they have the upmost confidence that their votes are properly counted.

This week, I met with some of Florida's dedicated election supervisors and discussed the need to act appropriately to address any existing vulnerabilities in our election systems by purchasing new equipment, facilitating cybersecurity training and implementing best practices. I applaud their commitment to safeguard our democracy, and urge your full and timely consideration of the state's request for \$19.2 million to enhance elections integrity.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator