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AND TRADE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

ROBIN L. KELLY
2ND DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0773

DISTRICT OFFICES:
600 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
SUITE 505
MATTESON, IL 60443
(708) 679-0078

9204 SOUTH COMMERCIAL AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60617
(773) 321-2001

WEBSITE: www.RobinKelly.house.gov

July 17th, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner,
Governor of the State of Illinois
Illinois Executive Mansion
410 E. Jackson Street,
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Governor Rauner,

In August 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) alerted the State of Illinois to cyber-breaches in the state's voting system and encouraged the state to enhance cybersecurity efforts to protect citizens' critical data and the integrity of the 2016 election.

This FBI flash alert was issued nearly two years ago, providing the state adequate time to accurately, effectively and efficiently address these cyber vulnerabilities that made tens of thousands of Illinoisans victims of Russian-backed cybercrimes.

Despite nearly two years of lead time, a recent report, entitled "Election Security Update: Top 18 Most Vulnerable States," listed Illinois as a Tier 2 threat state and listed three current vulnerabilities facing Illinois. The report was drafted by Members of the Committee on House Administration.

This assessment of Illinois' cyber preparedness is deeply disturbing and cause for great concern. As elected officials, we have an obligation to secure and protect our democracy, our election infrastructure and the personal data of citizens. At present, we continue to fail at this critical mission.

Ensuring the security of Illinois' elections and voter data is not solely the responsibility of the state government. It requires a whole of government approach, including in-depth cooperation at the local, state and federal levels. I am glad that the state of Illinois has sought \$13.2 million in federal funding through the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

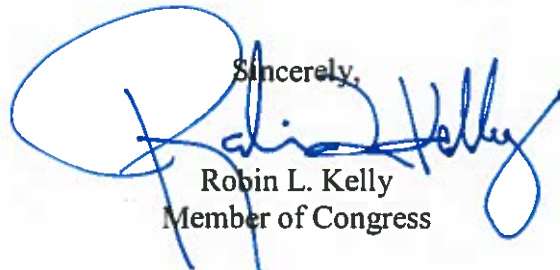
In order to provide the most effective assistance at the federal level, I am requesting additional information on vital areas of concern. I look forward to your answers and continued engagement as we work, cooperatively, to protect our democracy, election infrastructure and citizens' personal data.

1. As previously noted, I am pleased to see the state of Illinois apply for \$13.2 million in EAC funds. However, the state has yet to provide a comprehensive plan of how these critical funds will be used. What is the timeline for the plan formation, distribution and opportunity for local election officials to provide comment?
2. This week, the U.S. House of Representatives is expected to consider the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 6147), which includes significant funding cuts to the EAC. Will you encourage Members of the Illinois' Congressional delegation to oppose this dangerous funding reduction?
3. How do election security efforts fit into the state's Cybersecurity Strategy 2017-2019, which lists as its first goal 'protect State of Illinois Information and Systems'?
4. Under Objective 1.1 of the state's Cybersecurity Strategy 2017-2019, the state notes its plan to 'identify confidential information through a formal data classification process.' Can the Department of Innovation & Technology provide an update on the progress of this process and other efforts to achieve stated Objective 1.1?
5. In 2016, the state issued a Request for Information (RFI) concerning blockchain technology applications for the public sector. Earlier this week, West Virginia began a pilot program to utilize blockchain technology to increase voter access. Has our state considered applications of blockchain technologies to enhance election security and more securely manage critical voter data?

As noted above, the responsibility of preserving our democracy, securing our election infrastructure and protecting citizen data is incumbent upon all elected officials, at all levels of government. Your response to this letter and these questions will help improve federal and state coordination on this critical issue.

I look forward to working with you, the State Board of Election and the Department of Innovation and Technology to ensure a safe, secure, fair and free election in our state and nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robin L. Kelly". The signature is stylized and written over the printed name and title.

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

CC:

Honorable Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State;
Honorable Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General;
William J. Cadigan, Chairman, Illinois State Board of Elections;
Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Elections; and
Honorable Kirk Lonbom, Illinois Chief Information Officer & Acting Secretary, Department of Innovation & Technology