



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

March 9, 2018

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC

Hon. Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:

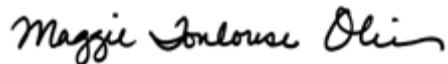
We write to you today out of concern regarding unprecedented and shocking language currently included in Section 4012 of HR 2825, the reauthorization of the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Section 4012 allows Secret Service personnel unlimited access to polling places pursuant to the President's direction. This is an alarming proposal which raises the possibility that armed federal agents will be patrolling neighborhood precincts and vote centers.

Title 18 of the US Code makes it a crime for a military or civil officer in the service of the United States to bring or keep their troops "at any place where a general or special election is held," unless it is necessary to protect against an armed invasion. This longstanding and carefully crafted statute ensures the right of voters to cast their ballots under the limited authority of civil officers rather than law enforcement. Secretaries of State across the country agree that there is no discernable need for federal Secret Service agents to intrude, at the discretion of the president, who may also be a candidate in that election, into the thousands of citadels where democracy is enshrined.

Due to this grave concern, we write to you today to humbly request your assistance in removing this damaging and concerning provision from the proposed legislation. Yesterday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee considered this legislation and heard our concerns, expressed to Senators Johnson and McCaskill, regarding this and other amendments to the bill that we found disquieting. However, the committee did not have the authority to address this important issue, and therefore we bring this request directly to you as leaders of your respective parties within the Senate.

We welcome your questions on this topic, and we are happy to communicate with you further should you require clarity or testimony regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico Secretary of State



Tom Schedler
Louisiana Secretary of State



Jim Condos
Vermont Secretary of State



Connie Lawson
Indiana Secretary of State



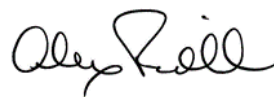
Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State



Tre Hargett
Tennessee Secretary of State



Elaine Manlove
Delaware State Election Commissioner



Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State



Kim Wyman
Washington Secretary of State



Denise Merrill
Connecticut Secretary of State



Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



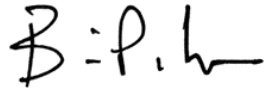
Matthew Dunlap
Maine Secretary of State



Mac Warner
West Virginia Secretary of State



Jay Ashcroft
Missouri Secretary of State



Brian Kemp
Georgia Secretary of State



William Francis Galvin
Massachusetts Secretary of State



Alvin A. Jaeger
North Dakota Secretary of State



Nellie M. Gorbea
Rhode Island Secretary of State

Mark Martin
Arkansas Secretary of State