



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United State Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United State Senate
260 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Blunt:

We write in strong support of the *For the People Act*, and the substitute amendment that offers important changes to make it even easier to implement these important reforms in our states.

Modernizing and further securing our elections requires continued effort by election administrators, in coordination with commonsense policy reforms making it easier and safer for eligible Americans to register and vote. Expansions in vote-by-mail and early voting saw resounding success during the 2020 election in states and municipalities across the country, and resulted in record turnout for both parties. Congress must work to make these policies permanent, so every eligible voter across America has access to these voting options in the future. That's why we need the U.S. Senate to pass the *For The People Act* (S. 1).

The *For The People Act* offers a comprehensive path to securing and modernizing American democracy for generations to come. The bill provides clear guidance for all 50 states and the District of Columbia to implement election processes that work for administrators and voters alike, and its adoption into law is critical to the future of American elections. Proven policies such as automatic and same-day voter registration will remove administrative obstacles for eligible voters while maintaining up-to-date and accurate voter rolls. Voter-verified paper ballots will ensure every vote is accurately recorded and allow administrators to conduct reliable audits to verify election results. Other provisions, such as independent redistricting commissions to combat gerrymandering and shining light on dark money, will further strengthen the integrity of our elections.

Importantly, the sponsors of this legislation have continued to work closely with election administrators from across the country, listening to our input and proposing a substitute amendment that further improves the *For the People Act* by ensuring it can be implemented

efficiently and effectively. These changes in the substitute amendment strengthen the legislation by providing the flexibility necessary to meet the diverse needs of our election jurisdictions, while ensuring voters have access to the ballot.

Specifically, the substitute amendment extends the timeline for states to purchase modern voting systems, as well as to fully implement automatic and same-day voter registration. It also provides flexibility in early voting to support small jurisdictions and jurisdictions that conduct voting primarily by mail, and allows for innovative practices like mobile voting centers. Additionally, the vote-by-mail provisions are improved by simplifying the signature curing process, improving timelines for requesting and mailing ballots, requiring the U.S. Postal Service to carry all election mail for free, and eliminating overly prescriptive language.

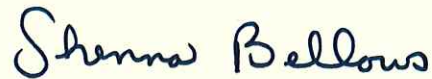
We strongly encourage Senators to continue to work with Secretaries of State and election officials to make further improvements to the bill, to ensure that the critical best practices in the legislation can be properly implemented across a varied landscape of election law and process. Our expertise and experience can inform the careful crafting of minor adjustments to make certain that the *For the People Act* will be successful in protecting and expanding the voting franchise.

As the chief elections officials in our respective states, and as the administrators who will be tasked with executing many of the policies proposed in the *For The People Act*, we can confidently state that this bill and the substitute amendment are designed to make our democracy stronger and safer than ever. We proudly and firmly support the *For The People Act*, and we strongly recommend its passage in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,



Shirley Weber
California Secretary of State



Shenna Bellows
Maine Secretary of State



Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State



Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State



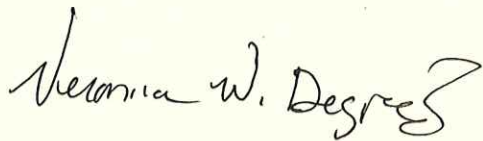
Denise Merrill
Connecticut Secretary of State



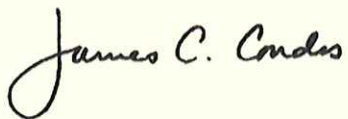
Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico Secretary of State



Shemia Fagan
Oregon Secretary of State



Veronica Degraffenreid
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania



Jim Condos
Vermont Secretary of State