



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

The Honorable Russell T. Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

**SEP 25 2020**

Dear Mr. Vought:

This responds to your request for the views and recommendation of the Department of Justice (Department) on the enrolled bill S. 1321, the "Defending the Integrity of Voting Systems Act." The Department recommends that the President approve the bill.

S. 1321 would amend 18 U.S.C. § 1030, which imposes criminal liability on persons who unlawfully access a "Protected Computer", with the intent to commit fraud or access information that the person is not authorized to do. This bill expands the definition of "Protected Computer", to include computers that are used as part of a "Voting System." A "Voting System" is defined as any equipment that is used for the management, support, or administration of a Federal election.

Protecting the integrity of our democratic institutions and maintaining a public confidence in our electoral process is a top priority of the United States Government. Adding voting systems used for federal elections as a class of protected computers under the leading statute used to prosecute computer crimes will provide federal law enforcement with a strong statutory tool to impose risk and consequences on malicious cyber actors who target election infrastructure. The Department is highly supportive of explicitly criminalizing this activity to support our efforts to defend elections from malign interference.

Thank you for requesting our views on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of additional assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Boyd", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Stephen E. Boyd  
Assistant Attorney General