Secretary of State
Kim Wyman

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Chuck Schumer

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Representative McCarthy:

As Republican and Democratic secretaries of state from vote-by-mail states, engaged in overseeing one of the most challenging elections in our nation's history, we are writing to you today in bipartisan unity urging Congress to build upon the $400 million appropriated in March as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These funds were greatly appreciated and promptly deployed to local election officials to combat the potential effect COVID-19 could have had on the recent primary season.

However, turnout is projected to significantly increase during the upcoming general election, and existing federal CARES funds are insufficient. States need additional resources to prepare for the volume of work anticipated, as well as ensure voters have a safe and secure voting experience this fall. We are asking you to increase financial support for elections in the next round of stimulus funding currently under negotiation. The Brennan Center for Justice estimates the states need $2-4 billion in additional funding to mitigate the risks associated with the pandemic and successfully carry out the 2020 election. We also ask for this next round of funding to contain language allowing for flexibility of use and that it no longer contain the match mandates cash-strapped states can no longer afford to meet. Whether it is an extension of mail-in voting like in Colorado and Washington, or the universal need to recruit a new generation of poll workers, we can ensure the safest possible voting environment — if Congress acts now.

As frontline election administrators, we know what our states require and have already seen the mounting concerns associated with voting during a pandemic. These additional funds, flexibly tailored to meet our individual state needs, will allow us to successfully meet the challenge ahead. We are ready and up to the task. Now, we need the resources to do it. Please consider our request and help our democracy remain the shining city on the hill that so many aspire to enter.

Sincerely,

Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State

Kim Wyman
Washington Secretary of State