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**HOUSE OF
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October 4, 2017

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Office of the Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

We write to bring the important issue of voter machine technology and security to your attention ahead of the 2018 Legislative Session. As you may be aware, the House Science and Technology Committee recently held a hearing when a cyber-security expert testified that the Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines used in Georgia had been part of a demonstration at a cyber-security convention and were successfully hacked, including to change voting outcomes.

The participants of the cyber security convention have promised to publish their results on the internet for all to see. As a result, the Commonwealth of Virginia decertified the same DRE machines used in Georgia on the same day that they received word of the serious security vulnerabilities. In fact, states are largely abandoning DREs in favor of some form of paper and pencil method with the use of optical scanner technology. Further, Georgia is one of only five remaining states that exclusively use DRE machines.

The DRE machines are outdated and use Microsoft 2000 operating system—an operating system that has not been supported since 2010. Any replacement technology for Georgia's current voting machine technology must have a verifiable paper trail that can be used to audit the accuracy of the system. To this end, we will be collaborating on legislation to require not only a replacement technology for casting votes in our state, but also a process for auditing election results. This is essential to instill confidence in the voting system.

Our preliminary research indicates that at a minimum, there should be an optical scanner at each polling location, although it would be a best practice to require two per precinct. Each county election's office should have a pair as well. And because machines break down when least expected, having an additional 15% of the previous total on hand would be wise.

There are 1673 voting precincts and 159 counties in Georgia. Based on the assumptions we have presented above, we estimate that Georgia would need 4,214 optical scanner machines. The cost, at approximately \$5000 per scanner, would be roughly \$21,070,000.

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October 4, 2017

Page 2

There are additional technologies on the market that allow for automated marking of ballots, or Ballot Marking Devices (BMD), which would be helpful for voters who cannot mark ballots themselves. However, only a small number of these BMD's would be needed per precinct.

With all of this in mind, we ask that you recommend in your proposed budget for the coming legislative session a line item of \$25-\$35 million to replace our outdated and vulnerable voting machines.

We appreciate your willingness to take voting security seriously in our state and appreciate your leadership in addressing this critical issue. We will gladly provide additional information on this subject with you and your staff if that would be helpful. Thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to working with you during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,

Scot Turner

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scot Turner".

State Representative
District 21

Scott Holcomb

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Holcomb".

State Representative
District 81