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Chairman Blunt's Opening Statement
Election Security Preparations: Federal and Vendor Perspectives
July 11, 2018

As was discussed in our last election security hearing, during the 2016 election cycle, state and local election officials were tested like never before by cyberattacks and we anticipate that these attempts to interfere will continue.

In our last hearing, state and local officials told us that they needed access to timely and actionable information and cybersecurity resources, including technical assistance. Today, we turn to the federal officials who are charged with providing those resources and the private-sector election vendors who produce election-related software and hardware for their views.

Efforts to secure American elections are not new. Following the 2000 election, the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) established the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to assist states in replacing voting systems and improving election administration. HAVA also created a partnership between the EAC and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology to create voting system guidelines and to certify voting systems.

In January 2017, the Department of Homeland Security designated our country's election infrastructure to be critical infrastructure. In our last hearing, we heard how this designation affected information sharing between state, local and federal governments. Today, I look forward to hearing about another aspect of this designation, which is the formalization of information sharing and collaboration among private entities and the federal government through the creation of a Sector Coordinating Council (SCC).

More recently, in the FY2018 Omnibus, Congress appropriated \$380 million to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to help states enhance their election infrastructure. As of this week, 49 states and territories have requested approximately \$350 million.

Some of our goals for today are to find out more about the tools that the federal government is providing to state and local election officials; the information sharing that is occurring between federal, state and local officials and private sector entities; and to learn more about the creation and implementation of cybersecurity best practices, both by governments and by

private entities.

Thank you all for being here, I look forward to hearing your perspective.