4/6/2023
Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations
RE: H.429

Dear Chair Hardy, Vice Chair Vyhovsky and members of the Committee,

My name is Jay Kaplan, CEO and co-founder of Synack. We're the nation's premier security testing company, harnessing a vetted community of the world's most talented cybersecurity researchers to deliver continuous penetration testing and vulnerability management for our customers.

Since 2020, Democracy Live has engaged Synack to conduct continuous independent testing of its OmniBallot portal. We have put their cloud and tablet-based platform through rigorous security testing, and we continue to check Democracy Live's networks for potential vulnerabilities. Our testing process draws on a pool of over 1,500 trusted cybersecurity researchers who are incentivized to find vulnerabilities.

Our findings have reinforced my belief that digital absentee voting is not only possible to accomplish securely: It's already here. And where Synack Red Team members have found areas of improvement, Democracy Live has embraced our researchers' suggestions and feedback.

Voting is the lifeblood of our democracy, and *any* voting technology needs thorough and regular testing. While there's an urgent need to make our entire democratic process more accessible, that can't come at the expense of security.

The FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency have recognized the hard work that cyber defenders and election authorities have put into securing our bedrock voting infrastructure. Last October, these agencies issued a public service announcement noting there's "no reporting to suggest cyber activity has ever prevented a registered voter from casting a ballot, compromised the integrity of any ballots cast, or affected the accuracy of voter registration information."

At Synack, we are working hard with partners like Democracy Live to ensure that continues to be the case by making it harder for attackers to successfully compromise any part of our election infrastructure. To that end, I fully expect our researchers and technology will continue to test the OmniBallot portal through the 2024 Presidential election and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jay Kaplan · CEO & Co-Founder

SYNACK

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