



FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK

P.O. Box 29106 • Washington, DC 20017 • 202-527-7575 • 202-527-7576 (fax)

Senator Roy Blunt
Chairman Senate Committee on Rules & Administration
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 260
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Rules & Administration
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 425
Washington, DC 20510

July 21, 2020

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

Peace and All Good!

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of Saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform United States public policy related to peace making, care for creation, poverty, and human rights.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that we must not serve God and money. (Matthew 6:24) After hearing God's call to "rebuild His Church" a young St. Francis famously renounced his wealthy merchant father and all his worldly possessions. Our Christian faith teaches us that we must recognize each person as a gift from God, and that we must emphasize the importance of the essential humanity and dignity of each person. And, as Pope Francis calls us to "meddle in politics," we at the Franciscan Action Network interpret this concept as a requirement that all Americans must have an equal say in the public square.

The \$400 million in the CARES Act was a good first start to ensure safe and secure elections this November but the next stimulus package must include more resources: from long lines, fewer polling places, to not receiving absentee ballots or having them arrive back too late, we have seen from the primaries in states across the country that we need additional election funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We must make sure that all Americans who want to cast a ballot in November, either by mail or in person at a socially acceptable distance, are able to do so. The Senate must ensure that the \$3.6 billion deemed necessary for safe and secure elections is included in the next stimulus package.

Sincerely,
Jason Miller
Director of Campaigns
Franciscan Action Network