

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

CYSE 406 CYBER LAW

Writing Assignment #2

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Writing Assignment 2

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Date: Apr 09, 2022

Subject: The Election Manipulation Prevention Law

Cyber security has become a global concern with the number of users increasing gradually. When there are more users or fewer users, it is equally important to have the information secured and keep it privately as described. Nonetheless, many times unexpected cyberattacks happen and bring a new challenge to the cyber world. Cyber attackers look at elections as one of their important aspects to exploit and manipulate the result in the favor of a particular candidate. This kind of activity violates cyber laws as well because they are made to protect the privacy and prevent manipulation. There are many times that US citizens have heard that Russia has played a role in the Presidential elections in the United States. Hence, it is not proven, but the claim is there, and many cyber experts and law officials are trying to prove a point to conclude that Russia has played the role in the Presidential elections.

According to the New York Times, "Russian Interface in 2020 included influencing Trump associates." Many election officials mentioned that Russia has played a role in the 2020 presidential election in the United States. It is mentioned in the New York Times, that President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia has authorized some efforts to hurt the campaign of Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr. As well, they have stated it involved some cover operations on the President Donald J. Trump's team. The names are not officially mentioned in the report, but they have mentioned that Russia has manipulated the election result to turn in the favor of Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr. As

well when the result of a couple of states turned in the favor of Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr. at the last day, the opposition party have complained that the results are altered. It was mainly with the mail-in-ballots, where citizens had time to send their votes through the mail. They have also stated that they kept taking the ballots after the cut off time (Barnes, 2021).

It has been the case in the United States for almost two decades now, and during elections, a third party plays a role to overturn the election results. After the result, the losing party claims and wants to have the elections to be done again. They feel that they are cheated in the elections, and elections are not conducted with honesty, and the vital votes of the citizens are altered to overturn the decision. In the 2020 election, the losing party have also filed in the court that they want to have the reelection and mentioned that their votes are changed in the ballots through third parties. Nonetheless, the claim was rejected because no evidence can prove the election result was changed. It also has raised so many questions about the cyber involvement in the elections with cyber threats and cyber-attacks (Brumfield, 2020).

There are cyber laws to prevent any cyber-attacks during the elections and conduct the election without any manipulation. H.R.6188 – Prevent Election Hacking Act of 2018, “is introduced in the house to allow Homeland Security to establish a program to improve election system cybersecurity by facilitating and encouraging assessments by independent technical experts to identify and report election cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and for other purposes (Congress.gov).” If manipulation happens during the elections, then it can be filed by using H.R.6188 within one year from the date of the enactment. It will allow the administer elections of the Federal Office to improve the cybersecurity of the systems and address the issue to get the correct result (Congress.gov).

H.R.6188 law enables the officials to see if anything went wrong with the elections. If any issue is found with the election results, then it will be addressed by involving law enforcement officials and election officials. They will determine and check the results again if necessary and may schedule the election again. As well during unusual activities like cybersecurity vulnerabilities, they may also notify the election officials and take the necessary actions by involving the law enforcement officials. The activities under the Hack the Election Program are funded by the government. The law may award independent technical experts when vulnerabilities are found and identified. The identified cyber intruders will be punished with the punishment ordered by the judges based on the United States Constitution sections (Congress.gov).

References:

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"Text - H.R.3710 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act." Congress.gov, Library of Congress, 15 October 2019, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3710/text>.