

STATEMENT

Brennan Center Letter to Congress Opposing the SAVE America Act

The letter from Brennan Center President Michael Waldman urges Congress to reject the SAVE America Act which, like the SAVE Act before it, would block millions of eligible American citizens from voting.

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[Voting & Elections](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The bill would require Americans to produce a passport or birth certificate every time they register to vote. More than 21 million eligible American citizens lack ready access to those documents.
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February 10, 2026

Re: Oppose the SAVE America Act, S. 1383

Dear Representative,

We strongly urge you to oppose the latest version of the SAVE Act, S. 1383. Like the previous version (H.R. 22) which the House already voted on this Congress, the SAVE America Act would be the most restrictive voting bill ever passed by Congress. It would block millions of eligible American citizens from voting. It must be defeated.

This latest version of the SAVE Act would effectively require every American to produce a passport or birth certificate each time they register or re-register to vote. More than 21 million American citizens do not have those documents readily available. Roughly half of Americans do not even have a passport. Millions lack easy access to a paper copy of their birth certificate. Millions more women whose married names are not on their birth certificates or passports would face extra steps just to make their voices heard.

In addition, the SAVE America Act would eliminate or upend most methods of registering to vote. Mail and online registration would be essentially abolished, as would voter registration drives that add hundreds of thousands of citizens to the rolls every election cycle. Automatic voter registration would be severely limited in states across the country. The bill would also direct states to purge their voter rolls based on faulty data and without appropriate guardrails, like requiring officials to notify voters before removing them from the list. In 2024 alone, we saw these kinds of reckless purge attempts sweep in thousands of eligible American citizens in Alabama, Ohio, Virginia, and Texas.

The bill would also impose an unfunded mandate on election officials, saddling them with the responsibility of hashing out the practical details, leaving them to cover the costs, and threatening

them with criminal and civil penalties if they get things wrong.

There are already checks in place to ensure that only eligible citizens can vote. All available evidence, including from the Trump administration itself, indicates that only American citizens vote and the exceptions are vanishingly rare. States that have combed through their voter rolls looking for illegally cast votes – as Louisiana and Utah just did – have repeatedly confirmed that fact. The SAVE America Act, like the SAVE Act, solves nothing.

The last time Congress tried to pass the SAVE Act, people across the country spoke out in opposition. Now, the Trump administration has identified this “show your papers” policy as a key piece of the President’s call to “take over the voting.” A vote for the SAVE America Act would be a vote to block millions of eligible American citizens from participating in our democracy. I urge you to oppose it again.

Best regards,
Michael Waldman
President and CEO
Brennan Center for Justice

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Voter Suppression [\[link-1\]](#)

Links

link-1: Voter Suppression <https://www.brennancenter.org/topics/voting-elections/voter-suppression>