



March 28, 2025

Representative Josh Riley
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: SAVE Act (H.R. 22)

Dear Representative Josh Riley,

All of the League of Women Voters organizations within NY19 strongly oppose the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act and ask you to vote against this bill when it comes to the House floor. We understand that this action is imminent, and may occur as soon as next week.

The bill amends the National Voter Registration Act to prohibit States from registering any American to vote unless they provide a passport, birth certificate with their current name, or equivalent. Since these documents must be provided in-person, the bill would ban online, mail-in, and automatic voter registration nationwide, and force voters who move, change their name, or switch parties to travel to the Board of Elections or other government office to update their voter registrations.

The SAVE Act would block millions of American citizens from voting, particularly women, young, Black, rural, and low-income Americans. Sixty-nine million women do not have a birth certificate with their current legal name on it. Older, Black, rural, and low-income Americans are less likely to have valid passports (which cost \$130 and last for 10 years). Overall, more than 9% of voting-age American citizens (21.3 million people) do not have ready access to a passport, birth certificate, or naturalization papers.

Active voters would be harmed as well. According to the Brennan Center's 2023 survey*, approximately 64% of all survey respondents who lacked easy access to citizenship documents were registered to vote. Twelve million Americans who voted in 2020 would be functionally unable to register to vote under the SAVE Act.

The SAVE Act passed the House in 2024. This year, House Republicans passed a rules package to fast-track the SAVE Act, allowing it to bypass committee, the amendment process, and the need for a rule to govern debate. This bill would, for the first time in the history of our

Nation, reduce access to the ballot box for federal elections. Far from strengthening democracy, this bill would act to silence the voices of millions of eligible voters in America.

Please vote “no” when this bill comes to the House floor for a vote and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

The Leagues of Women Voters of NY19

Kim Cameron and Sheila Cohen, Co-Presidents, LWV of Cortland County

Susan Ruff, President, LWV of Broome and Tioga Counties

Megan Nettleton and Sally Grubb, Co-Presidents, LWV of Tompkins County

Dare Thompson, President, LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region

Kristin Pullyblank and Christina Bourgeois, Co-Presidents, LWV of the Cooperstown Area

Tiffani Silverman, President, LWV of Rensselaer County

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VOTERS.
DEFENDING
DEMOCRACY.**

*The Brennan Center for Justice is an independent, nonpartisan law and policy organization that works to reform, revitalize, and when necessary, defend our country’s systems of democracy and justice.