

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

The Biden-Harris administration's Title IX rule is a necessary step in protecting all Americans from sex-based harassment and discrimination. It would uplift and empower survivors while holding schools accountable for their handling of these sensitive cases.

This Congressional Review Act that Republicans have put forward undermines the rights of survivors of sexual assault and advances a baseless, prejudiced narrative against LGBTQI+, especially transgender, individuals.

I am incredibly frustrated that Republicans are spending time obsessing over what bathroom is used instead of addressing the real problems faced by women and children.

I also include in the RECORD, Madam Speaker, a Statement of Administrative Policy providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5 of the United States Code. If this President were presented with H.J. Res. 165, he would veto it, and for good reason because this bill takes us back.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.J. RES. 165—PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE"

The Administration strongly opposes H.J. Res. 165, which would disapprove the Department of Education's rule, under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, to restore and strengthen vital nondiscrimination protections for students, employees, and applicants in federally funded education programs and activities.

Since Title IX was signed into law more than 50 years ago, it has opened doors for generations of women and girls and increased access to educational opportunities for millions of students. Despite this progress, rates of sexual harassment and assault in our nation's schools and colleges remain unacceptably high. Many women see their education derailed because of pregnancy discrimination. And many LGBTQI+ students face bullying and harassment just because of who they are.

The Department's rule is critical to ensuring that no person experiences sex discrimination at school. The rule provides protection from sex-based harassment, including sexual violence; promotes accountability and fundamental fairness through a fair, transparent, and reliable process; and ensures that students, employees, and families understand their rights and that institutions know their responsibilities. The rule also advances educational equity by requiring schools that have knowledge of possible sex discrimination in their education programs or activities to take prompt and effective action to end the sex discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Passage of H.J. Res. 165 would eliminate these critical protections that keep students safe and able to realize their full potential.

The promise of Title IX—an education free from sex discrimination—remains as vital now as it was when the law was enacted. The Administration will continue to fight tirelessly to realize this promise and achieve equal opportunity for all students and all Americans.

If the President were presented with H.J. Res. 165, he would veto it.

Ms. BONAMICI. We have made progress in making every student feel safe and be safe in schools.

I once again encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this harmful and extreme joint resolution for the sake of women, the LGBTQI community, and survivors across the Nation.

Again, Madam Speaker, yesterday we were talking about dignity for dishwashers. Please show some dignity for people who are being discriminated against because of who they are and who they love.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, we have heard a lot of misleading comments today, as I said earlier—misleading verging on untruths.

The Department isn't following court precedent. In Bostock, the Supreme Court specifically warned against applying its decision in that case to Title IX or any other civil rights law preventing sex discrimination.

In addition, there is currently a split among Federal appeals courts on this issue. In January of last year, the Eleventh Circuit held that a school district's policy requiring people to use the bathroom that corresponds with the student's biological sex is allowed under Title IX.

As I said earlier, we are not misleading or scaring the American people. All people have to do is read this regulation to see that schools are not allowed to prevent a person from participating in an educational program or activity consistent with the person's gender identity. There are exceptions, but athletics are not included. A biological man can announce that he feels like a girl or a woman and go into the bathroom with women and girls if he chooses to do so based on this rule.

In addition, three separate Federal district court judges in three separate cases have already taken action to block the rule from going into effect in the States involved in those cases, which has been alluded to. One judge called the regulation "an abuse of power." The other judge called the regulation "an attempt by the executive branch to dramatically alter the purpose and meaning of Title IX."

Madam Speaker, this resolution to overturn President Biden's Title IX rule is a necessary step to keep the spirit of Title IX alive. My colleagues have eloquently talked about that.

H.J. Res. 165 is about fairness, safety, and ensuring that the playing field remains level for everyone. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired. Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1341, I call up the bill (H.R. 8281) to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration, printed in this bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8281

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act" or the "SAVE Act".

SEC. 2. ENSURING ONLY CITIZENS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.

(a) *DEFINITION OF DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.*—Section 3 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20502) is amended—

(1) *by striking "As used" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—As used"; and*

(2) *by adding at the end the following:*

"(b) DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—As used in this Act, the term 'documentary proof of United States citizenship' means, with respect to an applicant for voter registration, any of the following:

"(1) A form of identification issued consistent with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

"(2) A valid United States passport.

"(3) The applicant's official United States military identification card, together with a United States military record of service showing that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

"(4) A valid government-issued photo identification card issued by a Federal, State or Tribal government showing that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

"(5) A valid government-issued photo identification card issued by a Federal, State or Tribal government other than an identification described in paragraphs (1) through (4), but only

if presented together with one or more of the following:

“(A) A certified birth certificate issued by a State, a unit of local government in a State, or a Tribal government which—

“(i) was issued by the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government in which the applicant was born;

“(ii) was filed with the office responsible for keeping vital records in the State;

“(iii) includes the full name, date of birth, and place of birth of the applicant;

“(iv) lists the full names of one or both of the parents of the applicant;

“(v) has the signature of an individual who is authorized to sign birth certificates on behalf of the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government in which the applicant was born;

“(vi) includes the date that the certificate was filed with the office responsible for keeping vital records in the State; and

“(vii) has the seal of the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government that issued the birth certificate.

“(B) An extract from a United States hospital Record of Birth created at the time of the applicant's birth which indicates that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

“(C) A final adoption decree showing the applicant's name and that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

“(D) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a citizen of the United States or a certification of the applicant's Report of Birth of a United States citizen issued by the Secretary of State.

“(E) A Naturalization Certificate or Certificate of Citizenship issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security or any other document or method of proof of United States citizenship issued by the Federal government pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

“(F) An American Indian Card issued by the Department of Homeland Security with the classification ‘KIC’.”

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) REQUIRING APPLICANTS TO PRESENT DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—Under any method of voter registration in a State, the State shall not accept and process an application to register to vote in an election for Federal office unless the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship with the application.”

(c) REGISTRATION WITH APPLICATION FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE.—Section 5 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Each State motor vehicle driver's license application” and inserting “Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State motor vehicle driver's license application”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “Each State shall include” and inserting “Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State shall include”;

(3) in subsection (c)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) verify that the applicant is a citizen of the United States;”;

(4) in subsection (c)(2)(C)(i), by striking “(including citizenship)” and inserting “, including the requirement that the applicant provides documentary proof of United States citizenship”;

(5) in subsection (c)(2)(D)(iii), by striking “; and” and inserting the following: “, other than

as evidence in a criminal proceeding or immigration proceeding brought against an applicant who knowingly attempts to register to vote and knowingly makes a false declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements to register to vote in an election for Federal office; and”.

(d) REQUIRING DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP WITH NATIONAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 6 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “Each State shall accept and use” and inserting “Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State shall accept and use”; and

(B) by striking “Federal Election Commission” and inserting “Election Assistance Commission”;

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following: “The chief State election official of a State shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that residents of the State are aware of the requirement to provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) the person did not provide documentary proof of United States citizenship when registering to vote.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) ENSURING PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—

“(1) PRESENTING PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO ELECTION OFFICIAL.—An applicant who submits the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall not be registered to vote in an election for Federal office unless—

“(A) the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship in person to the office of the appropriate election official not later than the deadline provided by State law for the receipt of a completed voter registration application for the election; or

“(B) in the case of a State which permits an individual to register to vote in an election for Federal office at a polling place on the day of the election and on any day when voting, including early voting, is permitted for the election, the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship to the appropriate election official at the polling place not later than the date of the election.

“(2) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT.—Upon receiving an otherwise completed mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the appropriate election official shall transmit a notice to the applicant of the requirement to present documentary proof of United States citizenship under this subsection, and shall include in the notice instructions to enable the applicant to meet the requirement.

“(3) ACCESSIBILITY.—Each State shall, in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, ensure that reasonable accommodations are made to allow an individual with a disability who submits the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) to present documentary proof of United States citizenship to the appropriate election official.”

(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.—Section 7 of the National Voter Reg-

istration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iv) Receipt of documentary proof of United States citizenship of each applicant to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.”; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I), by striking “(including citizenship)” and inserting “, including the requirement that the applicant provides documentary proof of United States citizenship”; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) ask the applicant the question, ‘Are you a citizen of the United States?’ and if the applicant answers in the affirmative require documentary proof of United States citizenship prior to providing the form under subparagraph (C).”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “who are citizens of the United States” after “for persons”;

(f) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION.—Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “In the administration of voter registration” and inserting “Subject to the requirements of subsection (j), in the administration of voter registration”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(D) based on documentary proof or verified information that the registrant is not a United States citizen; or

“(E) the registration otherwise fails to comply with applicable State law;”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (l); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsections:

“(j) ENSURING ONLY CITIZENS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a State may not register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of United States citizenship.

“(2) ADDITIONAL PROCESSES IN CERTAIN CASES.—

“(A) PROCESS FOR THOSE WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY PROOF.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any relevant guidance adopted by the Election Assistance Commission, each State shall establish a process under which an applicant who cannot provide documentary proof of United States citizenship under paragraph (1) may, if the applicant signs an attestation under penalty of perjury that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and eligible to vote in elections for Federal office, submit such other evidence to the appropriate State or local official demonstrating that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and such official shall make a determination as to whether the applicant has sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.

“(ii) AFFIDAVIT REQUIREMENT.—If a State or local official makes a determination under clause (i) that an applicant has sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, such determination shall be accompanied by an affidavit developed under

clause (iii) signed by the official swearing or affirming the applicant sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote.

“(iii) DEVELOPMENT OF AFFIDAVIT BY THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—The Election Assistance Commission shall develop a uniform affidavit for use by State and local officials under clause (ii), which shall—

“(I) include an explanation of the minimum standards required for a State or local official to register an applicant who cannot provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to vote in elections for Federal office in the State; and

“(II) require the official to explain the basis for registering such applicant to vote in such elections.

“(B) PROCESS IN CASE OF CERTAIN DISCREPANCIES IN DOCUMENTATION.—Subject to any relevant guidance adopted by the Election Assistance Commission, each State shall establish a process under which an applicant can provide such additional documentation to the appropriate election official of the State as may be necessary to establish that the applicant is a citizen of the United States in the event of a discrepancy with respect to the applicant's documentary proof of United States citizenship.

“(3) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—Each State shall take affirmative steps on an ongoing basis to ensure that only United States citizens are registered to vote under the provisions of this Act, which shall include the establishment of a program described in paragraph (4) not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection.

“(4) PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—A State may meet the requirements of paragraph (3) by establishing a program under which the State identifies individuals who are not United States citizens using information supplied by one or more of the following sources:

“(A) The Department of Homeland Security through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (“SAVE”) or otherwise.

“(B) The Social Security Administration through the Social Security Number Verification Service, or otherwise.

“(C) State agencies that supply State identification cards or driver's licenses where the agency confirms the United States citizenship status of applicants.

“(D) Other sources, including databases, which provide confirmation of United States citizenship status.

“(5) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a State election official (including a request related to a process established by a State under paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B)), any head of a Federal department or agency possessing information relevant to determining the eligibility of an individual to vote in elections for Federal office shall, not later than 24 hours after receipt of such request, provide the official with such information as may be necessary to enable the official to verify that an applicant for voter registration in elections for Federal office held in the State or a registrant on the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal office held in the State is a citizen of the United States, which shall include providing the official with such batched information as may be requested by the official.

“(B) USE OF SAVE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may respond to a request received under paragraph (1) by using the system for the verification of immigration status under the applicable provisions of section 1137 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-7), as established pursuant to section 121(c) of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-603).

“(C) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The heads of Federal departments and agencies shall share information with each other with respect to an individual who is the subject of a request received under paragraph (A) in order to enable them to respond to the request.

“(D) INVESTIGATION FOR PURPOSES OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct an investigation to determine whether to initiate removal proceedings under section 239 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229) if it is determined pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) that an alien (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)) is unlawfully registered to vote in elections for Federal office.

“(E) PROHIBITING FEES.—The head of a Federal department or agency may not charge a fee for responding to a State's request under paragraph (A).

“(k) REMOVAL OF NONCITIZENS FROM REGISTRATION ROLLS.—A State shall remove an individual who is not a citizen of the United States from the official list of eligible voters for elections for Federal office held in the State at any time upon receipt of documentation or verified information that a registrant is not a United States citizen.”.

(g) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF STATE TO REMOVE NONCITIZENS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(a)(4) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by adding “or” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) documentary proof or verified information that the registrant is not a United States citizen;”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(c)(2)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “(4)(A)” and inserting “(4)(A) or (C)”.

(h) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—

(1) CONTENTS OF MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “(including citizenship)” and inserting “(including an explanation of what is required to present documentary proof of United States citizenship)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) shall include a section, for use only by a State or local election official, to record the type of document the applicant presented as documentary proof of United States citizenship, including the date of issuance, the date of expiration (if any), the office which issued the document, and any unique identification number associated with the document.”.

(2) INFORMATION ON MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)(4)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively; and

(B) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated and as amended by paragraph (1)(C)), by striking “; and” and inserting the following: “, other than as evidence in a criminal proceeding or immigration proceeding brought against an applicant who attempts to register to vote and makes a false declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements to register to vote in an election for Federal office; and”.

(i) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Section 11(b)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510(b)(1)) is amended by striking “a violation of this Act” and inserting “a violation of this Act, including the act of an election official who registers an applicant to vote in an election for Federal office who fails

to present documentary proof of United States citizenship.”.

(j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 12(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20511(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) in the case of an officer or employee of the executive branch, providing material assistance to a noncitizen in attempting to register to vote or vote in an election for Federal office;

“(C) registering an applicant to vote in an election for Federal office who fails to present documentary proof of United States citizenship; or”.

(k) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS TO CERTAIN STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503), as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by striking “This Act does not apply to a State” and inserting “Except with respect to the requirements under subsection (i) and (j) of section 8 in the case of a State described in paragraph (2), this Act does not apply to a State”.

(2) PERMITTING STATES TO ADOPT REQUIREMENTS AFTER ENACTMENT.—Section 4 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20503) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) PERMITTING STATES TO ADOPT CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AFTER ENACTMENT.—Subsections (i) and (j) of section 8 shall not apply to a State described in subsection (c)(2) if the State, by law or regulation, adopts requirements which are identical to the requirements under such subsections not later than 60 days prior to the date of the first election for Federal office which is held in the State after the date of the enactment of the SAVE Act.”.

SEC. 3. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION GUIDANCE.

Not later than 10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission shall adopt and transmit to the chief State election official of each State guidance with respect to the implementation of the requirements under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), as amended by section 2.

SEC. 4. INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.

Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”) shall not apply with respect to the development or modification of voter registration materials under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), as amended by section 2, including the development or modification of any voter registration application forms.

SEC. 5. DUTY OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO NOTIFY ELECTION OFFICIALS OF NATURALIZATION.

Upon receiving information that an individual has become a naturalized citizen of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly provide notice of such information to the appropriate chief election official of the State in which such individual is domiciled.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.

Nothing in this Act or in any amendment made by this Act may be construed to supercede, restrict, or otherwise affect the ability of an individual to cast a provisional ballot in an election for Federal office or to have the ballot counted in the election if the individual is verified as a citizen of the United States pursuant to section 8(j) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (as added by section 2(f)).

SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING EFFECT ON STATE EXEMPTIONS FROM OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.

Nothing in this Act or in any amendment made by this Act may be construed to affect the

exemption of a State from any requirement of any Federal law other than the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).
SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to applications for voter registration which are submitted on or after such date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL).

□ 1415

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 8281, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, known as the SAVE Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative CHIP ROY of Texas.

As chairman of the Committee on House Administration, I have been focused on improving election integrity and increasing confidence in our elections. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of jurisdictions across the country that allow noncitizens to vote in their elections.

Right here in our Nation's Capital, noncitizens are eligible to vote in municipal elections. In Washington, D.C., a noncitizen only has to reside in the District for 30 days in order to vote.

Last month, 143 Democrats voted to approve noncitizen voting in our Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C. We cannot allow this to spread across the United States.

Let me be clear: Noncitizen voting reduces confidence in our elections. American elections are for American citizens, and we intend to keep it that way.

Today, we consider the SAVE Act, and we will see if my Democratic colleagues are once again in support of noncitizen voting. The SAVE Act will strengthen our election administration and restore Americans' confidence in our elections.

The SAVE Act contains critical reforms to update the National Voter Registration Act, an act that requires States to give voter registration forms to everyone who receives a driver's license, regardless of citizenship status.

The bill before us will help States prevent noncitizens from voting in

Federal elections by requiring States to obtain documentary proof of U.S. citizenship and identify in person when registering an individual to vote in Federal elections.

You are sure to hear my colleagues today on the other side say that noncitizen voting doesn't exist, or that it rarely happens, so we don't need to do anything about it.

First, I point you to a 1996 congressional race in California where an investigation by this body revealed that 624 noncitizens voted in that congressional election. I also point you to a race less than 4 years ago where our colleague from Iowa won by six votes.

Every illegal vote cancels out the vote of a legal American citizen. Illegal voting risks swaying elections.

Ensuring our laws are being enforced to prevent noncitizen voting is critical. Some will say that illegal voting is already illegal for noncitizens, but it is also illegal to evade the Border Patrol and enter our country illegally. Yet, that hasn't stopped almost anyone.

In the last 3 years, Border Patrol has encountered 7 million illegal migrants at our southern border. We must strengthen our election laws to make sure that they are being properly enforced.

On top of the previously mentioned examples of noncitizen voting, we also have seen examples of noncitizens on the voter rolls in different States across our country.

Just a few years ago, Illinois removed almost 600 noncitizens from its voter rolls. A Georgia audit recently determined that more than 1,600 noncitizens had attempted to register. In Pennsylvania, almost 10,000 noncitizens were removed from their rolls.

Every State needs access to the tools necessary to remove noncitizens from their voter rolls. A crucial element of the SAVE Act would provide States with cost-free access to existing Federal and State databases so they can perform this important voter list maintenance.

Today, we see the Biden administration has weaponized our border, and they are weaponizing Federal agencies to conduct a partisan voter registration scheme using taxpayer dollars under an executive order.

I have subpoenaed each agency's strategic plan. So far, no agency has produced its strategic, secretive scheme to get out the vote, and the left continues to register folks to vote.

By passing the SAVE Act, we can ensure only eligible Americans are registering to vote. Americans deserve confidence in their elections. We must pass the SAVE Act to prevent noncitizens from voting.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, you are going to hear a lot of fear-mongering rhetoric from my colleagues across the aisle today.

They claim the American people have no confidence in our elections. Where have we heard that one before? In 2020, Republican after Republican debased themselves by parroting lies about the election, by repeating claims they knew to be false.

They claimed that Americans had doubts about the election outcome, knowing full well that those doubts only existed because of the easily disproved conspiracy theories MAGA Republicans had been spreading. Those same Republicans organized illegal efforts to subvert the peaceful transfer of power that undergirds our cherished democracy.

There were criminal efforts to send false slates of electors to Washington to steal the Presidency from Joe Biden. People have been charged with crimes for these fake elector schemes, the very schemes that MAGA Republicans cheered on.

More than that, the former administration used the levers of government to try to retain their failing grip on power. Where is the respect for law and order? Where is reverence for justice?

As criminal indictments have shown, there were coordinated, intentional schemes among some in the White House and members of the Department of Justice to override the will of the American people, to suborn a coup d'etat right here in the United States.

The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has stated publicly that Pentagon officials feared that the former President would attempt to use the military to stay in power. It is heartbreaking that this happened in our country, but what happened next is even worse.

After witnessing these corrupt efforts to stay in power, this downright shameful attempt to overthrow our system of government, what did Republicans do? Did they defend this country from all enemies, foreign and domestic? No, they cowered.

Speaker JOHNSON, joined by 126 House Republicans, filed an amicus brief with the United States Supreme Court that attempted to throw out millions of American votes. Where did this lead? To a violent and deadly attack on this historic, majestic building, to our colleagues in this very room, on both sides of the aisle, clad in escape hoods and frantically calling loved ones, praying for divine deliverance.

As the mob stormed the Capitol, savagely beating police and calling for the execution of the sitting Vice President of the United States, the former President sat idly by. He did nothing to stop the attack. He did nothing to try to save lives, to save the Republic. He watched television in the White House for hours as the democracy was shaken to its core.

As patriots like Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI begged for support from the National Guard, from anyone, the former President did nothing.

Even the memories of that darkest of days haven't deterred Republicans'

quest for power. They decided to try it all again.

Last month, a rogues' gallery of election deniers stood on the steps of the Capitol, spreading more inaccuracies about the security of our elections. They admitted that they had no evidence of noncitizen voting in our elections, the same rhetoric that nearly broke our Nation 4 years ago.

Republicans' continued election denialism is akin to collective hero syndrome, where individuals create harmful situations like lighting a fire only to seek praise for putting the fire out.

This was a deeply dishonorable exercise when it began in 2020, and the dishonor has not abated.

The SAVE Act, and all the untruthful rhetoric around it, is part of the same project that election deniers began years ago. They are continuing—indeed, they are magnifying—the collective delusion by claiming that noncitizens are voting in Federal elections.

Simply put, they are not. It is against the law for noncitizens to register to vote and to vote in Federal elections. Let me repeat this: It is against the law for noncitizens to register to vote and to vote in Federal elections.

The false claim that there is a conspiracy to register noncitizens is a pretext for trying to overturn the 2024 election, potentially leading to another tragedy on January 6, 2025.

Let's turn to the profoundly damaging bill in front of us, the so-called SAVE Act. If I were to summarize what this bill does, I would offer this description: It would create enormous burdens for those registering to vote, erecting barriers that would shock most Americans, including most Republicans.

To begin, as my Republican colleague admitted at the Rules Committee on Monday, the SAVE Act will prohibit most Americans from registering to vote with their driver's license alone. Yes, you heard that right. The SAVE Act will bar Americans from using a standard State-issued driver's license alone when registering to vote.

The bill will prohibit the use of the new and improved Real IDs for over 95 percent of the American public, and this bill will apply to every American citizen.

What is a citizen to do if they cannot use their Real ID-compliant driver's license? The SAVE Act will allow Americans to use a passport to register, but only 48 percent of Americans have a passport, so over 130 million Americans are out of luck.

Wait, as they say, there is more.

Can a member of our military use their military ID to register to vote? Surely, military IDs will be enough to register to vote in our elections. Not so. According to Republicans, servicemembers will need to bring their military ID and a copy of their service record showing their place of birth within the United States.

Many servicemembers were born abroad, say, to military parents overseas. Those servicemembers will be entirely blocked from using their military ID to register.

This bill requires any new registrant to show their proof of citizenship in person at an election office. Any servicemember deployed overseas who wants to register to vote will not be able to. No dice.

That is right. The SAVE Act will prevent members of our Armed Forces deployed overseas from registering to vote.

Republicans are pushing a bill that will disenfranchise U.S. military personnel protecting us overseas from registering. It is unpatriotic, and it is shameful.

Wait, there is even more.

Native American voters will be unable to use their Tribal IDs to register to vote unless their Tribal ID demonstrates their place of birth in the United States.

Does every American's State or Tribal-issued ID show their place of birth? The answer almost certainly is no.

What about birth certificates? Under this bill, one could present their birth certificate alongside their photo ID, but herein lies the problem: Tens of millions of Americans, particularly married women, have a different name on their birth certificates than they have on their photo IDs.

Under the terms of the SAVE Act, these millions of married women will not be able to use their birth certificates to register to vote. The bill would disenfranchise countless married women who are U.S. citizens.

Let's be very clear: What is a voter supposed to do if they don't have a passport? What if their Real ID, like almost every American, does not show citizenship status? The SAVE Act will not allow them to register, especially millions upon millions of American women, students, servicemembers, Native voters, and many more.

This bill is not actually about preventing noncitizens from voting in Federal elections. I will repeat what I said before: It is already illegal for noncitizens to register and to vote in Federal elections.

We litigated this back in 2020 when Republicans alleged mass voter fraud in State after State. Yet, every recount, audit, and lawsuit demonstrated the 2020 election was fair and free from fraud. Our Federal elections are safe and secure. It is that simple.

During today's debate, we will hear from my colleagues across the aisle about the risk of noncitizens flooding our border and then somehow registering and voting in Federal elections on a massive scale. It is rich to hear so-called concern from the party that killed a bipartisan border deal to address this problem.

My Democratic colleagues and I have clearly responded with the truth. The American people know Republicans are misleading them. Here is what the SAVE Act is actually about.

This bill is about scaring Americans. This bill is about silencing Americans. This bill is about disenfranchising Americans. This bill is about further damaging the foundations of our democracy.

As they look back on the wreckage they wrought 4 years ago, Republicans are not chagrined. They are not ashamed. They are, in fact, emboldened.

This is a deeply damaging bill. It will disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans. It will disenfranchise military voters, especially those serving bravely and courageously overseas. It will disenfranchise married women who change their names.

It will disenfranchise rural voters. It will disenfranchise Native voters, students, poor voters, and elderly voters. It will disenfranchise survivors of natural disasters like so many are experiencing this week across the United States.

□ 1430

House Republicans are fine with increasing the burdens and amplifying the costs in time, in money, and in effort for American citizens to vote.

House Democrats are not.

This bill is an overt effort to make Americans believe that American elections are rife with fraud. There is no evidence this is the case.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the defeat of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE), who are not is the chair of the Subcommittee on Elections.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this bill should not be controversial. The vast majority of Americans agree that only U.S. citizens should be voting in our elections.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility, or SAVE Act, is a crucial piece of legislation that will protect our elections and ensure American citizens have confidence in our elections system and that their vote is not being canceled out by those who are not legally eligible to vote.

As Florida's former Secretary of State, I oversaw all of Florida's elections, working diligently to ensure that Floridians had accurate and fair elections that they could be confident in.

Now as the House Administration Subcommittee on Elections chair, I am working to advance policies that lead to stronger elections across our Nation, like the SAVE Act.

While it is already illegal for noncitizens to vote, this legislation provides much-needed enforcement and tools for States to verify that their voter rolls are accurate and that illegal aliens are not slipping through the cracks and voting.

We all know that President Biden's border crisis poses a clear threat to our elections system as millions of illegal

aliens have poured into our country at record levels. In recent years, election outcomes have included razor-thin margins. We must ensure that Americans can trust our election administration process, and one of the sure ways to accomplish that is by ensuring that noncitizens do not vote in our Federal elections.

Recently, we have seen documented instances of noncitizen voting in jurisdictions across the country, including right here in our Nation's Capital.

That is unacceptable.

The SAVE Act will strengthen current law by requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in Federal elections.

As a former elections official myself, I urge my colleagues to support the SAVE Act to enhance election security, to minimize the risk of foreign interference, and to restore Americans' confidence in U.S. elections.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to just note something that has been talked about for some time which is going back to an election that happened nearly 30 years ago in California.

It talks about Representative Loretta Sanchez in her 1996 election in California. My Republican colleagues continue to make allegations that there were roughly 600 noncitizens who voted in the race. It is patently false. The reality is the exact opposite. Many of the supposed noncitizens identified in the contest had, in fact, already become U.S. citizens through naturalization by the time they cast their ballots in 1996, and some had been U.S. citizens for decades.

Other U.S. citizens were erroneously identified as noncitizens because their names were like noncitizens' names that were in an INS database.

It is no accident. Even then, the Republicans were in charge of the Committee on House Administration. They investigated it, and they concluded that the committee's investigation had no irregularities. They dismissed the contested election. They concluded that the outcome of the election was not in doubt.

The fact that they would, 30 years later, bring up a contest that was decided admittedly by a few votes, where claims of widespread noncitizens voting has been thoroughly debunked says more about their lack of evidence than it does anything else.

It simply does not happen, and there is no evidence that that is the case.

I just use that as one more example of misleading the public into believing something that is false is true.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN).

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8281 would deny United States citizens in my district their right to vote. This Delegate standing here speaking in this Hall will be denied the right to vote for this seat. So for that reason, I rise in opposition to the bill.

To register to vote, H.R. 8281 requires documentary proof of citizenship issued by a State or a Tribal Government, but my constituents do not live in a State. My constituents live in a U.S. territory, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. So if my constituents try to use a valid photo identification card issued by the Commonwealth showing place of birth as the Northern Marianas, they would be denied registration.

If I were to produce the Department of State-issued passport given to Members of Congress, it says my place of birth is the Northern Mariana Islands, and I will be denied the right to vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLÁN. H.R. 8281 says unless the birth certificate was issued by a State, you can't vote. The same is true for U.S. citizens in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The same is true for all naturalized U.S. citizens throughout the country. All will be denied the right to vote because H.R. 8281 does not recognize these territories as part of the United States, and people being born in these territories are United States citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this poorly drafted legislation. I don't understand something that only Americans can vote and the U.S. citizens who are not Americans cannot vote.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Wisconsin for yielding.

First, I want to say that my colleague on the other side of the aisle referenced an issue with an election where 624 noncitizens illegally voted. He suggested that that actually wasn't accurate.

So my question would be: What is an accurate number?

Because in my opinion, one person voting illegally in an election is one too many.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the SAVE Act. Since taking office, more than 9.6 million illegal immigrants have crossed into the United States.

This crisis is not only a national security threat, but one that can seriously alter the outcome of our elections.

We have seen efforts from States and localities, including the District of Columbia, to allow noncitizens to vote.

Securing our elections is of paramount importance, and we must ensure that it is easy to vote and hard to cheat. The SAVE Act will strengthen our election security, improve voter confidence, and ensure American elections are only for American citizens.

Specifically, this legislation requires State election officials to ask about

citizenship before providing voter registration forms, and it requires an individual to provide proof of citizenship in order to register to vote in Federal elections.

These commonsense solutions are not controversial, which is why I am deeply concerned that the President of the United States has threatened to veto this legislation. In fact, this step should alarm every citizen living in this country.

We must ask: Why?

Why is this administration refusing to take steps to safeguard our elections and protect the votes of every single American?

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the SAVE Act, and I look forward to voting for it.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, to my dear friend from Oklahoma, what I was suggesting was the Republican-controlled Committee on House Administration reviewed the allegations that 600 people who were not citizens had voted and ultimately made the determination that it was without merit and seated the individual, the Democrat at that time, Ms. SÁNCHEZ from California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when we say that the right to vote is under attack, we are not talking about hypotheticals. It is under attack right now and right here with this very bill.

Republicans want to throw up barriers because when people vote, they lose.

Let me be clear: They don't want you to vote. They don't want to hear Black voices, Brown voices, LBGTQIA+ voices, or young voices. Our fundamental access to our democracy is being politicized, and this xenophobic attack that we are debating today will make it harder for Americans to vote.

My Republican colleagues will claim that requiring IDs is a small ask, but nearly 30 million people lack a valid driver's license, and 15 to 18 million of those adults don't have access to documents proving their birth or citizenship.

Americans don't need more obstacles to vote. It is already hard enough. That is why I am proud to have introduced the Right to Vote Act with my colleagues, Assistant Leader NEGUSE and Senator OSSOFF. This bill would enshrine people's right to vote and prohibit governments on all levels from restricting that right with bills like this one.

This bill is part of the Democrats' Freedom to Vote Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this bill is part of the Democrats' Freedom to Vote Act. Along with the

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, these are the types of bills we should be bringing to the floor, not this nonsense.

Every day that we let rightwing Republicans pass laws like this that restrict ballot access, reduce polling stations in Black neighborhoods, or drown out our voices with big money campaigns, we fail the American people.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful legislation.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), who is the bill's sponsor.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding, I thank his committee for their great leadership in moving this bill to the floor, and I thank the Speaker for his great work in leading this important piece of legislation, the SAVE Act, which is critical to ensure that only American citizens will vote in American elections.

It is really that simple, but our Democratic colleagues and the President of the United States are giving up the game. They are telling the American people very plainly and clearly that it is their preference that noncitizens vote in American elections.

That is their current position.

The fact of the matter is this administration and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been damaging and breaking American sovereignty for the entirety of this administration and before.

They are destroying our borders. They are allowing people to flood into our country. Millions of people are being released into the United States. Americans are getting killed. We are seeing abuse of Americans throughout the country, and now all we simply want to do is ensure the integrity of American elections.

What we see is absolute resistance and lies from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

They want to go do the normal scare tactics that we are going to be disenfranchising voters when, in fact, we are following the same procedures that we have got in place in States all across the country in requiring documentary proof that you are a citizen.

That is very simple. We do it on many different fronts. In this case, you can provide a passport; you can provide documentation of your military ID if it has your citizenship on it; REAL ID, you can go with your driver's license; and you can produce your birth certificate.

Nevertheless, importantly, we have procedures in place that allow for States to come up with ways to check Federal databases or to provide other mechanisms and means provided that the State officials then sign an affidavit saying that this is, in fact, a citizen.

The reality is there is going to be no disenfranchisement. The truth is our colleagues on the other side of the aisle

do not want us to actually check citizenship.

I find it pretty amazing that the gentleman from New York is trying to make a case out of the stealing of elections when it is he who currently wants to be able to say right now that the current President should not be the nominee of a party that just nominated that President.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the passion of the distinguished gentleman from Texas, who is the sponsor of the bill, but I have not heard anyone dispute what I said in going through the incredibly burdensome path that citizens, American citizens, will now have to take in order to register to vote.

Your ID from your driver's license will not be sufficient if it doesn't have your place of citizenship. Mr. Speaker, 95 percent or more of REAL IDs, which will have replaced driver's licenses in many States, do not list citizenship. Birth certificates will be okay unless your name has been changed because you have gotten married. A military voter, particularly one overseas who has no way to go physically to an election office to register, will be unable to register to vote. The military IDs will be insignificant, particularly if their military ID and their service record don't show them as being born in the United States.

Frankly, to be a citizen of the United States, you don't have to be born on the continent or in Texas or Alaska or Hawaii. You have to be born somewhere, but you can become a U.S. citizen after you are born.

So all I am saying is it is incredibly burdensome.

I would further say since there is no evidence that this happened, all they talk about are scare tactics, the demonizing of people, and saying that there is this effort, it sounds like there is a suggestion that there is an organized effort to have noncitizens vote in Federal elections.

There is absolutely no evidence that that is the case, and we have had so many meetings of the standing committee and Subcommittee of the House Administration on Elections, that I would think if there were evidence of that, then it would have been presented to us.

□ 1445

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to another big lie bill, this one H.R. 8281.

Mr. Speaker, we know that elections are the cornerstone of American democracy, and it is our duty as Congress Members to protect every American's constitutional right to vote.

The threat to Americans' constitutional right to vote today is the Republican Party and H.R. 8281. In the long and consistent Republican tradition of

disenfranchising voters, the majority is pushing H.R. 8281 while simultaneously underfunding our election's infrastructure to safeguard free and fair elections.

In their desperation to roll back the clock to a time when women, people of color, and naturalized citizens couldn't vote, Republicans have introduced countless bills based on mis- and disinformation to erode the American people's trust in our elections and democratic institutions.

Here is the bottom line: H.R. 8281 does nothing to make our elections safer. It only perpetrates lies now to set up even bigger lies later when Republicans are unhappy with the outcome of the November election.

How do I know that? The majority's own former President's appointed commission to investigate claims of voter fraud by noncitizens was disbanded without identifying one single case. If we believe in the power of democracy, we should reject discriminatory rules rooted in fear and division and instead increase protections and access.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans call this bill the SAVE Act. It should be called the don't let Americans vote act, and so I rise here opposing and asking my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, safe and secure elections are fundamental to our Republic. Unfortunately, poll after poll is showing that Americans have lost trust in our election process. It is time for us to act and restore faith in that process.

One way to accomplish this is to limit American elections to American citizens. It should be of great concern to all Americans that the Biden administration, with the full support of my Democratic colleagues in the House, has allowed millions of people to enter the United States illegally.

Now Democrats want to leave the door open for noncitizens to potentially register to vote. If we do not act to prohibit this, it will further diminish American citizens' trust in our elections and ultimately in our government.

The legislation before us rightly requires States to have individuals provide proof of citizenship when they register to vote and to remove noncitizens from their voter rolls. Americans being the ones to determine the outcome of American elections should not be controversial.

In an Oversight Committee hearing, I asked former directors of the Census if they supported Federal laws that prohibit noncitizens from running for office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, in an Oversight Committee hearing, I asked

the former directors of the Census if they supported Federal laws that prohibit noncitizens from running for office, making financial contributions to candidates, and voting. All three said they support these safeguards to our elections, and all three were Democratic appointees.

Mr. Speaker, my question to my Democratic colleagues is: Do Democrats support sensible safeguards for our elections? The minority can demonstrate their support and their answer by voting for the SAVE Act.

I appreciate Representative ROY's leadership in this process and Representative STEIL's leadership and encourage all my colleagues to vote for the SAVE Act.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), our distinguished leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, the ranking member of the House Administration Committee, for his tremendous leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill.

The right to vote is sacred. The right to vote is special. The right to vote is sacrosanct. The right to vote is central to the integrity of our democracy. It is the foundation of the principle of government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The problem is apparently my extreme MAGA Republican colleagues have concluded that, rather than trying to win a debate and the hearts and minds of the American people anchored in ideas, the majority has instead chosen a strategy to engage in voter suppression. There is no evidence that has been presented to suggest that undocumented individuals have been participating in Federal elections. Republicans who investigated these allegations on their own committee have been unable to document these allegations.

It is unconstitutional. It is the state of the law that only citizens can vote in Federal elections. Only citizens can vote for the House of Representatives. Only citizens can vote for the United States Senate. Only citizens can vote for the Presidency of the United States.

This extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill is not designed to solve any problem on behalf of the American people. It is designed to jam people up and prevent Americans from voting.

The extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill will not allow Americans to vote who have a State-issued driver's license.

The extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill will not allow Americans who are serving in the military to use their military ID while they are serving this country to vote.

The extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill won't allow young peo-

ple, college students who are attending State universities all across the land and who have been issued college IDs through their State colleges and universities, to vote.

There is a big difference between the House Democratic view of free and fair elections, the peaceful transfer of power, and government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and the extreme MAGA Republican view.

House Democrats want to make it easier to vote and harder to obtain weapons of war. Extreme MAGA Republicans want to make it harder to vote and easier to deploy weapons of war. These are weapons, by the way, not used to hunt deer, but to hunt children in classrooms and other human beings.

The extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill has given us an opportunity again to communicate with the American people on the difference between our values, House Democrats putting people over politics, focused on the things that matter, like lower costs, growing the middle class, ending price gouging, defending democracy, and fighting for reproductive freedom.

We embrace having a debate with our extreme MAGA Republican colleagues about issues that matter. Why won't Republicans just take their issues to the American people? Why are my colleagues on the other side of the aisle trying to hide their plans that are connected to Trump's Project 2025 publicly, but then come to the House floor and bring this extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill that is part of the blueprint of Trump's Project 2025? The majority can't fool the American people. They are smarter than my colleagues think.

Republicans don't want to have a real debate about issues because the extreme MAGA Republicans want to criminalize abortion care and impose a nationwide ban. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are trying to hide that now from the American people, stripping it from their convention platform.

We know what Republicans really want to do. The extreme MAGA Republicans put the Justices on the Supreme Court who detonated *Roe v. Wade*. That is Republicans' agenda. That is part of Trump's Project 2025.

Republicans don't want to debate the issues. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to suppress the right to vote because Trump's Project 2025, which is part of the majority's platform, wants to detonate and destroy the Department of Education, which the American people don't support.

Republicans don't really want to embrace the ability for young people of every race, of every part of America, including the heartland of America and rural America and Appalachia and suburban America, to get a high-quality public education. That is what Trump's Project 2025 is about.

The majority doesn't want to have a discussion about that. My colleagues

don't want that exposed to the American people, so we are on the floor right now with an extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill that does nothing because the law is already clear: Noncitizens cannot vote in Federal elections.

We are going to continue to do everything we can to make sure that the American people can participate in free and fair elections, have the freedom to determine their own destiny by exercising their right to vote in an uncompromised and unfettered fashion, as opposed to engaging in this type of frivolous legislative activity, at best, perhaps designed as a cover already trying to set up an excuse for what may happen in November, just like what was done in advance of January 6.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is sacrosanct, and that is why we need to protect it for U.S. citizens.

In New York City, a law was passed to allow noncitizens to vote in municipal elections. Here in our Nation's Capital, 143 Democrats voted to allow noncitizens to vote in municipal elections here in our Nation's Capital.

In the State of New York, there is no photo ID requirement. If there was, it should be noted that the State of New York provides drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants. It is the reason that the SAVE Act is necessary, to make sure that we are protecting U.S. elections for U.S. citizens only.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO), a great State.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I have to disagree with Leader JEFFRIES. He claims that Republicans don't want to debate the issues. There was a debate 2 weeks ago. There was a winner of that debate, and that debate has sent Democrats into disarray.

I also want to counteract the claim that there are laws in place. President Biden has made his entire administration about not following or enforcing laws, and that is one of the reasons as to why the SAVE Act is so important.

Under the Biden administration and the failed policies, there has been over 10 million people that have come across our southern border illegally. In March of 2021, President Biden issued an executive order promoting access to voting, requiring Federal agencies to assist States with voter registration.

We do not have concrete methods to ensure illegals do not vote in Federal elections. The SAVE Act ensures that only United States citizens can vote in elections. Quite frankly, it is insane that we are even having this debate. We should all agree that only those who are citizens of this great country can vote in our elections.

It also expands Federal databases, such as DHS' SAVE database, Social Security databases, and others, to prove citizenship and assist States.

Joe Biden's open-border policy has put America in a position where

illegals could potentially vote in elections. It is bad for election integrity, it is bad for democracy, and it is unfair to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, before Joe Biden, citizenship mattered in the United States of America, and citizenship should matter once again.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I do agree with my distinguished colleague and friend from New York. I don't know why we are having this bill on the floor either. Yes, we can all agree that only U.S. citizens vote in Federal elections. I know that we agree because it is the law of the land.

□ 1500

You can't register if you are not an American citizen to vote in a Federal election. It is against the law. It is also against the law to vote. I agree with him. There is no reason to be here. There is nothing to be gained. There is no problem to be solved.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN).

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, voting rights are sacrosanct and they are personal to many of us.

Over 150 years ago, Black men were allowed to vote for the first time in this country. Thousands were elected to office, particularly across the South, including into this body, including one of my predecessors, John Mercer Langston, the first Black man elected to Congress from Virginia. I stand here as the first Black woman elected to Congress from Virginia. I am the great-granddaughter of a man, who after reconstruction when voter suppression laws passed across the South, had to take a literacy test and find three White men to vouch for his character to be able to vote. He was an American citizen.

I stood in the well and took my oath of office on March 7, 2023, on my father's Bible. Inside that Bible, he kept the poll tax receipt from when he registered to vote, and his father paid a poll tax. I kept that. He kept it in the Bible to remind himself of the barriers put in place to him, an American citizen, to vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill is essentially a poll tax because I am not aware of a single proof of citizenship document that does not cost an individual money to get, unless we are requiring every State to provide one for free, and then it is an unfunded mandate. This is the 2024 version of the Jim Crow poll tax, and we should vote against it.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Congressman Roy's bill to save

our elections from illegal alien interference.

Sacrosanct voting is only theory unless we protect the election process.

Over the past 3½ years, President Biden has deliberately thrown the border open to over 11 million illegal aliens, many of whom now have Social Security numbers, driver's licenses, and other government-issued IDs, which enable them to vote in our U.S. Federal elections.

Today, many States and municipalities have no way to detect whether an individual with a government-issued ID is a U.S. citizen or not. In some States, any noncitizen can simply check "yes" on one box: "Are you a citizen of the United States," and boom, they are a registered voter.

This is not right. If you are here illegally and interfere in our elections, you deserve a pair of handcuffs, not an "I voted" sticker.

We must pass the SAVE Act to prevent these loopholes from debasing and ultimately destroying our election system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), my friend.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, as a daughter of Selma and a Representative of Alabama's Civil Rights District, the fight for voting rights is very personal to me.

It was in Selma where hundreds of Foot Soldiers like John Lewis shed blood on a bridge for the equal right of all Americans to vote. They marched, they bled, they prayed, and some even died for the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us today makes a mockery of their legacy. House Republicans' so-called SAVE Act is a dangerous antidemocratic bill that would do nothing to protect our elections.

While our colleagues across the aisle claim that this bill will prevent noncitizens from voting, we know that it is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections. In fact, under current law, noncitizens would face up to 5 years in prison for attempting to vote in Federal elections and even risk being deported.

In reality, this legislation would purge thousands of eligible voters from the rolls, including Americans who recently got married or changed their last names and those with military and Tribal IDs.

Americans should see this bill for what it is, a cynical attempt to sow doubt in the minds of voters about the integrity of our elections. It is yet another attempt to fan the flames of election denial by the same extremists who brought us the January 6th insurrection.

Mr. Speaker, we are elected officials who should be fighting to protect and expand access to the ballot box, not restrict it. We should be working to advance the progress made by the civil

rights and voting rights movement rather than rolling it back.

Let's be clear, the biggest threat to our elections is not noncitizen voting; it is the lack of Federal oversight which has allowed States to advance hundreds of new laws and new bills making it harder for Americans to vote.

Mr. Speaker, the House should be considering H.R. 14, the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which I introduced in September. H.R. 14 would restore Federal oversight. It would establish a new formula to protect and prevent States with a recent history of voter discrimination from restricting voter access.

In doing so, it would protect access to the ballot box for every eligible American.

With State lawmakers working overtime to erect barriers to the ballot box, the need for Federal voting rights protections is just as urgent today as it was 60 years ago. After all, it is up to the voters to choose our elected leaders, not the other way around.

Never did I think that 60 years after John Lewis was bludgeoned on a bridge in my hometown of Selma, Alabama, that I would be fighting to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It goes to show that progress is elusive, and every generation must fight to preserve the progress of the past and to advance it. John Lewis didn't give up and neither will we.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans' so-called SAVE Act is a dangerous antidemocratic bill that has no place on this floor. It is for that reason that at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to the committee. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the motion to recommit.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HUNT).

Mr. HUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8281, the SAVE Act.

For years, Democrats have called Republicans conspiracy theorists for stating Democrats want illegal aliens to vote in our elections. Yet, President Biden and every single Democrat in Washington want this bill to fail.

If Biden and the Democrats want to clear up this conspiracy theory, the President, when this bill passes, needs to sign it into law.

On another note, I have been Black for my entire life. The most racist thing I have ever heard is the insinuation by Democrats that Black and Brown Americans are too stupid to get

an ID to vote just like everybody else. I call this the soft bigotry of low expectations.

Figuring out how to vote in this country is a very low bar, and we could all figure it out regardless of your race, religion, color, or creed, and we should all want free and fair elections.

With me today are six forms of government-issued ID that I won't pull out at this time. How did I acquire that? It is by personal responsibility in this country.

I have also heard a lot about Jim Crow here today. I am here to tell you Jim Crow is over, and I know it because my parents grew up in it. I think it is absolutely insulting to those that actually experienced the ills of Jim Crow.

Having an ID to vote in our Nation's elections should be a requirement, which is why I stand before you today urging my colleagues on the left to support this bill. If you want secure elections, if you want your vote to count, vote for the SAVE Act.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it bears repeating. We are suggesting that every American, if this bill were to become law, would face enormous burdens with registering to vote. You can't vote, you can't cast a ballot if you can't register.

Let's take again the situation as it will relate to military personnel of the United States. The SAVE Act will prohibit any servicemember deployed overseas from registering to vote at all. That is what the bill says. Check it out.

You have to be in person. You may not register online, and there is no exception in the bill for a servicemember to do that. It requires Americans registering to vote by mail or online to present their proof of citizenship in person.

Good luck doing that if you are on a naval vessel in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. That applies to military personnel. It means that any servicemember deployed overseas will have to travel back to the United States and physically visit an election office to register to vote.

You don't think that is burdensome? You don't think most Americans, if they were watching this debate, would say that can't be right? It can't be right, but it is right. That is what the bill says.

Republicans are supporting a bill that would prohibit members of the military serving overseas from registering to vote while they are deployed. It is unpatriotic. It is outrageous. Also, they won't even allow any amendments to this bill, which we asked for. We asked for amendments which would make this better, although, frankly, it is hard to imagine that we could make this any better, but still no amendments were allowed. I asked for a structured rule on this and was denied the ability to do that.

The Freedom to Vote Act by Congress would expand the ability of every

American, including our servicemembers, to register to vote online. We want members of the military to vote. Frankly, we want every American to vote. If we have a problem in America, it is that too few Americans are voting, not that people who aren't registered or who aren't American citizens are voting. That is not the problem.

This committee and this House and this body ought to be working on ways to expand the franchise to every American because every right that we possess in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution is dependent upon our right to self-governance, and our ability to have self-governance flows from the ability for every American to vote. This bill puts enormous burdens and barriers to making that the reality.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, if anyone is wondering why we need a bill requiring proof of citizenship to vote, look no further than my home, New York City, where in 2021, the city council under Mayor Bill de Blasio passed legislation allowing noncitizens who have resided in our city for just 30 days to vote in municipal elections.

Not only this, but in November, after our office obtained copies of migrant shelter contracts by Freedom of Information Act requests, we discovered that New York City included a provision requiring contractors to distribute voter registration forms, assist in voter registration, and promote campaign material within the shelter themselves, all while prohibiting city agencies from asking about citizenship status in the same contract.

As a daughter of immigrants who came to this Nation legally and earned their right to vote, I have joined city and State leaders as a plaintiff in a lawsuit to stop New York City's misguided voting law. We have won not once, but twice; however, we continue to fight because the city continues to waste taxpayer dollars to appeal the ruling. This is why we need this bill today.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair and founder of the House Election Integrity Caucus, I rise in support of the SAVE Act, which will safeguard the right for every American citizen to vote. We must have proof of citizenship in order to vote.

Since President Biden took office, there have been over 9.7 million illegal immigrant encounters across our Nation, threatening our communities, our national security, and now the Democrats are attempting to undermine our elections. There are over 2 million so-called got-aways.

Many States, including New York, allow illegal immigrants to get reg-

istered to vote and also have driver's licenses. There is no requirement, they are on their honor, to prove whether or not they are actually citizens of this country.

Article II of the New York State Constitution sets forth in section 1: "Every citizen shall be entitled to vote in every election." That is citizens.

In order to protect the sacred right to vote, we have one citizen, one vote in this country. Yet, Democrats oppose the SAVE Act because they want millions of illegal immigrants they allowed into our country to vote in order to undermine and manipulate the outcome of our elections.

This will undermine our sacred right to vote, the most profound expression of our self-governance.

□ 1515

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time.

My friends on the other side of the aisle say: Well, it is against the law for people here illegally to register to vote. It is against the law, Mr. Speaker, for them to vote. It is against the law.

Do you know what else is against the law? Coming into our country illegally, but, oh my goodness, who knew? It happens.

As the past speaker just said, we have the honor system. Do you know how to register to vote? Just sign it and say, "I can vote." That is how to do the honor system.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you who we are providing the honor system to: people who human traffic, drug dealers, cartel members, people on the terrorist watch list.

Mr. Speaker, do we want to count on the honor system to have those folks, people coming from the Communist Party of China, from Russia, our adversaries, our enemies, selecting the leaders of our country? That is what they are telling you right now. That is exactly what they are saying.

By the way, this whole thing about military members can't vote, someone can come here illegally and serve in the fire department, in the soup kitchen, in any number of places, including the military, without being an American citizen. I have been overseas, and I have voted as an American military citizen.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, it is good to see so many people up in the gallery. What a great day. I can tell you something: Our democracy is at stake. Let me tell you exactly why.

President Biden has released millions of illegal aliens into the United States,

and he has done catastrophic damage to our great country in just 3 years.

Why would a guy do this? Why would he do such a thing? Make no mistake—everybody listening, make no mistake—this administration is facilitating an invasion of our country to import new voters. He wants new voters. He wants to establish one-party rule, and it is all by design. I repeat, it is all by design.

Thankfully, this legislation before us today would ensure that only American citizens are eligible to vote. Protecting our Nation's election integrity should not be a partisan issue, yet here we are.

Remember when my friends on the left falsely claimed the 2016 election was stolen due to foreign election interference? Russia, Russia, Russia. Lies, lies by the left.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this great legislation.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, in 2004, Arizona voters approved a ballot measure requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

Today, Arizona has two voter registration forms. There is one for those who can provide proof of citizenship, and those voters can vote in all offices, State and Federal. The other voter registration form is for people who don't show any proof of citizenship. Those voters are allowed to vote in Federal elections. The number of Arizona voter registration forms where voters don't show proof of citizenship has skyrocketed in Arizona to 35,000 forms.

Arizona voters and the Arizona Legislature have tried everything to ensure only citizens can vote. Arizona and the Nation need Congress to pass the SAVE Act so we can ensure only U.S. citizens vote in our elections, as required by law.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do note that my friends and colleagues on the other side have turned this into a discussion about immigration and the border, which is not the bill before the House. The reason I know that is because they were too embarrassed, perhaps, or perhaps were influenced by folks outside this Chamber to bring a bipartisan border deal that would have dealt with challenges at the border.

They didn't want to do that, so what are they doing? They are making this burdensome bill now a question of the border. They had their chance to do that. We would love them to do that. What they will do instead is demonize people and talk about a problem that doesn't exist.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the Biden administration's allowance of 10 million illegals into the country, the immigration issue does have a bearing on this issue.

Radical, progressive Democrats answer the merits of this legislation with logical fallacies. The 2020 election was perfect, they say; therefore, we should not think about, act to end, or prevent unlawful voting by noncitizens, should not speak of the possibility, should avoid the issue entirely, all to improve Americans' confidence in elections.

Since noncitizen voting is unlawful, they say, it does not occur. Since undetectable conduct in the ordinary course is not evidenced by huge masses of evidence, then the absence of evidence is evidence of absence.

In other words, Biden debate logic. Every vote cast by an illegal alien cancels out the vote of an American citizen, and with millions of "newcomers" flooded into the country by the Biden administration, the threat is greater than ever.

Without secure elections, the American experiment is finished. We must pass the SAVE Act.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8281, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, known as the SAVE Act.

It should not be controversial to say that Americans should decide who Americans vote for. As a former Texas secretary of state, I know the importance of election security.

Now more than ever, with Biden's border invasion releasing millions of illegal immigrants into our country, we must ensure that only American citizens can vote.

The SAVE Act does just that. This legislation will require proof of citizenship for voters to register for Federal elections and will empower States to clean up their voter rolls. It is critical that we safeguard our elections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to put America first and pass the SAVE Act. In God we trust.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The SAVE Act is the most severe voter suppression bill ever considered at the Federal level. It would make it burdensome for Americans to register to vote and to cast a ballot.

It has been brought before this body not to solve any problem, since Republicans have admitted they have no evidence of noncitizen voting in Federal elections. The bill before us is for Republicans to lay the groundwork to undermine the outcome of the Presidential election, just as they did 4 years ago, just as they will again and again until they realize either the futility of this exercise or the Republic crumbles. I pray for the former.

Democrats, on the other hand, want a stronger and more equitable democ-

racy, one that respects the rule of law and ensures that every voice is heard. That is why Democrats champion bills like the Freedom to Vote Act, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the Native American Voting Rights Act, not the SAVE Act.

I fiercely oppose this anti-American bill. I urge every one of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to support the motion to recommit and defeat this extremist SAVE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

This is our opportunity to safeguard American elections for American citizens. We have heard time and again from those on the other side of the aisle that this problem doesn't exist; yet, in our committee hearings, we have shown where noncitizens have voted in U.S. elections, whether it is the 1996 election in California, fully investigated by this House, or Fairfax, Virginia, which in 2011 found 278 noncitizens were on the voter rolls and determined 117 of those individuals had voted illegally, or counties across the country. Chicago, Illinois; San Diego County, California; and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, all found noncitizens had participated in Federal elections.

This is our opportunity to make sure that U.S. elections are for U.S. citizens.

We have also heard that it is already illegal in Federal elections for individuals who are not citizens to vote. That is true, but it is also illegal to cross the border into the United States illegally. That hasn't stopped millions of individuals.

This is our opportunity to safeguard our elections, to make sure that U.S. elections are for U.S. citizens only.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the SAVE Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Sewell of Alabama moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8281 to the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO HONG KONG—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-150)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Hong Kong that was declared in Executive Order 13936 of July 14, 2020, is to continue in effect beyond July 14, 2024.

The situation with respect to Hong Kong, including recent actions taken by the People's Republic of China to fundamentally undermine Hong Kong's autonomy, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13936 with respect to the situation in Hong Kong.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 10, 2024.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit on H.R. 8281;

Passage of H.R. 8281, if ordered;

Passage of H.J. Res. 165; and

Passage of H.J. Res. 109, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 8281) to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 197, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 344]

YEAS—184

Adams	Crow	Jeffries
Aguilar	Cuellar	Kamlager-Dove
Alfred	Davids (KS)	Kaptur
Amo	Davis (IL)	Keating
Auchincloss	Davis (NC)	Kelly (IL)
Balint	Dean (PA)	Kennedy
Barragán	DeGette	Khanna
Beatty	DeLauro	Kildee
Bera	DelBene	Kilmer
Beyer	Deluzio	Kim (NJ)
Bishop (GA)	DeSaulnier	Krishnamoorthi
Blumenauer	Dingell	Kuster
Blunt Rochester	Escobar	Landsman
Bonamici	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Bowman	Españolat	Larson (CT)
Boyle (PA)	Foushee	Lee (CA)
Brown	Frost	Lee (NV)
Budzinski	Galleo	Lee (PA)
Bush	Garcia (IL)	Leger Fernandez
Caraveo	Garcia (TX)	Levin
Carbajal	Garcia, Robert	Lieu
Carson	Golden (ME)	Lofgren
Carter (LA)	Goldman (NY)	Lynch
Cartwright	Gomez	Magaziner
Casar	Gonzalez,	Manning
Case	Vicente	Matsui
Casten	Gottheimer	McBath
Castor (FL)	Green, Al (TX)	McClellan
Castro (TX)	Hayes	McCollum
Cherfilus-	Himes	McGarvey
McCormick	Horsford	McGovern
Chu	Houlahan	Meeks
Clark (MA)	Hoyer	Menendez
Clarke (NY)	Hoyle (OR)	Meng
Cleaver	Huffman	Mfume
Clyburn	Ivey	Morelle
Cohen	Jackson (IL)	Moulton
Connolly	Jackson (NC)	Mrvan
Correa	Jacobs	Mullin
Crockett	Jayapal	Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas

Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Sewell
Sherman
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano

Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NAYS—197

Aderholt	Fry	Moolenaar
Alford	Fulcher	Mooney
Allen	Gaetz	Moore (AL)
Amodei	Garcia, Mike	Moore (UT)
Armstrong	Gimenez	Moran
Babin	Gonzales, Tony	Murphy
Bacon	Gooden (TX)	Nehls
Baird	Gosar	Newhouse
Balderson	Graves (LA)	Norman
Barr	Graves (MO)	Nunn (IA)
Bean (FL)	Green (TN)	Obernolte
Bentz	Griffith	Ogles
Bergman	Grothman	Owens
Bice	Guest	Palmer
Biggs	Guthrie	Pence
Bilirakis	Hagman	Perry
Bishop (NC)	Harris	Pfuger
Boebert	Harshbarger	Posey
Bost	Hern	Reschenthaler
Brecheen	Hinson	Rodgers (WA)
Buchanan	Houchin	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Hudson	Rogers (KY)
Burchett	Huizenga	Rose
Burgess	Hunt	Rosendale
Burlison	Issa	Rouzer
Calvert	Johnson (LA)	Roy
Carey	Johnson (SD)	Rulli
Carl	Joyce (CA)	Schweikert
Carter (GA)	Kean (NJ)	Scott, Austin
Carter (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Self
Chavez-DeRemer	Kelly (PA)	Sessions
Ciscomani	Kiggans (VA)	Simpson
Cline	Kiley	Smith (MO)
Cloud	Kim (CA)	Smith (NE)
Clyde	Kustoff	Smith (NJ)
Cole	LaHood	Smucker
Collins	LaLota	Spartz
Comer	LaMalfa	Stauber
Crane	Lamborn	Steel
Crawford	Langworthy	Stefanik
Curtis	Latta	Stell
D'Esposito	Lawler	Steube
Davidson	Lee (FL)	Strong
De La Cruz	Lesko	Thompson (PA)
DesJarlais	Letlow	Tiffany
Donalds	Lopez	Timmons
Duarte	Loudermilk	Turner
Duncan	Lucas	Valadao
Dunn (FL)	Luetkemeyer	Van Drew
Edwards	Luna	Van Dwyne
Ellzey	Luttrell	Van Orden
Emmer	Mace	Wagner
Estes	Malliotakis	Walberg
Ezell	Maloy	Waltz
Fallon	Mann	Weber (TX)
Feenstra	Mast	Webster (FL)
Ferguson	McClain	Wenstrup
Finstad	McClintock	Westerman
Fischbach	McCormick	Williams (NY)
Fitzgerald	Meuser	Williams (TX)
Fitzpatrick	Miller (IL)	Wilson (SC)
Fleischmann	Miller (OH)	Wittman
Flood	Miller (WV)	Womack
Fong	Miller-Meeks	Yakym
Fox	Mills	Zinke
Franklin, Scott	Molinaro	

NOT VOTING—52

Arrington	Courtney	Fletcher
Banks	Craig	Foster
Brownley	Crenshaw	Frankel, Lois
Cammack	Diaz-Balart	Garamendi
Cárdenas	Doggett	Garbarino
Costa	Evans	Good (VA)