



The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.

February 10, 2026

Washington, D.C.
Regional Office
1016 16th Street, NW
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.293.2828

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

National
Headquarters
Los Angeles
Regional Office
634 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90014
Tel: 213.629.2512

On behalf of MALDEF (“Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund”), I write to urge you to vote NO on H.R. 7296, the SAVE America Act, and to oppose H.R. 7300, the Make Elections Great Again Act (“MEGA Act”). **Both pieces of legislation require documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote. If either bill becomes law, it will become exceedingly difficult for many citizens to register to vote unless they have access to: (1) a valid U.S. passport; (2) a valid U.S. military identification card with a service record indicating birth in the U.S.; or (3) a valid government-issued photo identification and a valid naturalization or birth certificate (or other document from a statutorily limited list) with a matching name.** But if a registrant has changed their name and it no longer matches their form of identification, or if their birth or naturalization certificate name does not match the name on their government-issued identification, even these documents alone would be insufficient for a citizen to register to vote.

Chicago
Regional Office
11 East Adams
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60603
Tel: 312.427.0701

[As of 2024, only 51% of Americans have passports](#), and [69 million women nationwide cannot easily use their birth certificate to prove citizenship due to having changed their name.](#) Without these required documents—which voters across the political spectrum lack access to—millions of citizens will be blocked from exercising the right to determine their political representation. These overly restrictive, impractical, and unnecessary bills will disproportionately harm the [Latino community](#) and [married women](#) across the country.

San Antonio
Regional Office
110 Broadway
Suite 300
San Antonio, TX 78205
Tel: 210.224.5476

On top of these overly burdensome registration requirements, the SAVE America Act and the MEGA Act include onerous photo identification requirements to cast a ballot. [Latino voters are the group most likely to have outdated photo identification or to lack acceptable ID altogether.](#) This additional hurdle to voting will serve [to further suppress Latino registration and turnout rates.](#) With fewer and fewer citizens participating in our federal elections, these bills will erode public trust in our representative democracy.

Sacramento
Policy Office
1512 14th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916.444.3031

The MEGA Act, moreover, places numerous costly policy mandates upon states, all without additional funding. It mandates paper ballots, requiring localities across the country to purchase new voting equipment. It forces states to create a centralized voter surveillance system and to conduct time-consuming purges of voter rolls every 30 days. It bans universal mail-in voting, bans states from counting ballots that arrive after Election Day, and authorizes the Attorney General to withhold election funding from states, amongst other problematic and unnecessary intrusions upon state election law.

February 10, 2026
Page 2 of 2

Because the SAVE America Act and the MEGA Act will disproportionately harm the Latino community and result in fewer Americans participating in the electoral process, MALDEF urges you to vote NO on the SAVE America Act and to oppose the MEGA Act.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. I can be reached at jcalo@maldef.com or (202) 559-1823.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Calo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jesse Calo
Legislative Staff Attorney