



February 10, 2026

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Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.293.2828

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

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Los Angeles, CA 90014
Tel: 213.629.2512

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Chicago, IL 60603
Tel: 312.427.0701

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Regional Office
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San Antonio, TX 78205
Tel: 210.224.5476

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

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.

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.

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 Latino voters are the group most likely to have outdated photo identification or to lack acceptable ID altogether.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.

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.

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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,



Jesse Calo
Legislative Staff Attorney