

Rep. Bryan Steil, Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. Mitch McConnell, Chairman
Committee on Rules & Administration
399 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman McConnell and Chairman Steil,

The undersigned Secretaries of State of Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont submit the following letter in opposition to the SAVE America Act (H.R. 7296) and Make Elections Great Again Act (H.R. 7300). These bills would place a massive burden on American eligible voters, require unfeasible overhauls of state systems while preparations for the 2026 midterm elections are well underway, and create unfunded mandates for already under-resourced states and municipalities. American voters will be the ones paying for this - by paying more in taxes, spending more time jumping through bureaucratic hoops, or losing access to the ballot box altogether. Our elections are already fair, free, and secure thanks to the tireless efforts of state and local election administrators; Congress must focus on supporting this work instead of undermining it with contradictory and onerous legislation.

The confusingly inconsistent Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) requirements in either of these bills would make it harder for eligible voters to both register and cast their ballots, changing federal registration requirements while preparation for elections is already underway across the country. In many states they would also require massive overhauls of infrastructure at election offices and DMVs, changing REAL ID specifications at great cost to both states and voters. Election administrators already face significant challenges in educating voters on registration requirements, especially considering the significant mis- and dis-information on the issue coming out of Washington, D.C. If either of these bills become law we will have millions

of eligible voters, American citizens, being turned away from the polls because they were unaware of these massive changes or unable to comply.

A series of sweeping overhauls to the nation's voter registration and election administration laws, when some states are weeks or months away from conducting their primary elections, is not a serious effort at improving the democratic process. Each of these bills seeks to back states into using the overhauled SAVE program as a list maintenance tool; while each of the databases that make up SAVE has their own uses, public reporting has shown to be inefficient and inconsistent in identifying non-citizens on the voter rolls. It is clear that this new SAVE needs more refining, especially if the goal is for all states to utilize it on a regular basis. Forcing mass adoption in advance of the upcoming election would be a recipe for unprecedented confusion and inaccuracy on the nation's voter rolls. Changes to the voter registration process would also reduce state and local IT capacity at a critical time, and require considerable staff and volunteer re-training to ensure compliance. Perhaps most importantly, we are not confident that private voter information shared via SAVE will be effectively safeguarded from distribution in contravention of state and federal law.

The greatest danger to our elections does not lie in our existing systems and processes, which are secure; the greatest danger to our elections is in under-resourcing. While we are grateful for the \$45 million dollars in election security grants passed by Congress last week, that number is still too small by far. Elections are still critical infrastructure according to the federal government, and they must be funded as such. States and localities are doing everything possible to keep elections secure, even as assaults against our systems escalate and resources that were previously available from CISA and other agencies are withdrawn. Instead of dictating confusing requirements and specifications on voting machines and ballots that could cost states millions of dollars, Congress should adequately fund election administration and security.

We share Congress's interest in ensuring that our elections remain fair, free, and secure and that only eligible citizens are registered and able to vote. Secretaries of State, and election administrators in other roles across the country, are already working tirelessly to ensure a smooth 2026 midterm election. The changes in these bills would be detrimental to voters, to state

budgets, and to the democratic process. If Congress is looking for ways to assist with election administration, it should invest in existing state efforts. Short of that, it could exercise its oversight authority over the federal branch, the leadership of which seems intent on interfering with and undermining states at every turn.

Sincerely,



Gregg Amore
Secretary of State
Rhode Island



Tobias Read
Secretary of State
Oregon



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State
Maine



Steve Simon
Secretary of State
Minnesota



Sarah Copeland-Hanzas
Secretary of State
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Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of State
Connecticut