



March 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

We write to express our grave concerns regarding the *SAVE Act* (H.R. 22) and its impact on American women, particularly women who have legally changed their last names after marriage. We urge you not to bring it to the House Floor for a vote. The *SAVE Act* is advertised as a bill to prevent non-citizens from voting – a policy that is already law. In addition to being unnecessary, this bill increases the burden of documentary proof to register to vote, which risks disenfranchising **millions of women voters** by creating unnecessary bureaucratic barriers.

Nearly 70 million married women in the United States have taken their spouse's last name, but their birth certificates still reflect their maiden name. Updating a name on a birth certificate is not part of the standard legal name change process. **This accounts for about 25% of the U.S. citizen voting population.**¹ The *SAVE Act* does not provide guidance on how these women can reconcile their proof of citizenship with their legal name, nor does it specify whether alternative documents, such as a marriage certificate or legal name-change documentation, would be accepted.

Women who take their spouse's last name must go through multiple steps – first updating their Social Security record, then their driver's license – but their birth certificate remains unchanged. The burden of additional paperwork and bureaucratic red tape will fall overwhelmingly on women who are balancing careers, families, and other responsibilities – making voting

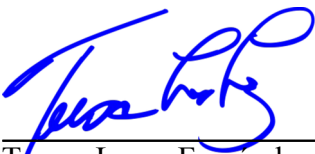
¹ IRG. "The SAVE Act: How a Proof of Citizenship Requirement Would Impact Elections - Institute for Responsive Government." Institute for Responsive Government, February 2, 2025.
<https://responsivegov.org/research/the-save-act-how-a-proof-of-citizenship-requirement-would-impact-elections/>.

exceptionally difficult. In your home state of Louisiana, approximately 966,376² women lack access to a valid birth certificate. **Expecting millions of women to navigate yet another complex process just to exercise their right to vote is an unnecessary barrier that will disenfranchise millions of women voters.**

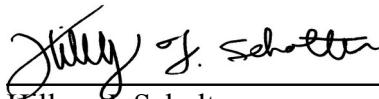
Some may argue that women could simply obtain a U.S. passport to resolve this issue. More than half of Americans do not have a valid U.S. passport.³ In fact, in Louisiana, less than one-third of citizens⁴ have a valid passport. A new passport currently costs \$165 while renewals cost \$130. Obtaining a passport also often requires taking time off of work, traveling to an acceptance facility, and providing additional documentation – none of which should be prerequisites for exercising the right to vote.

The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. No American should be penalized for making a legal and overwhelmingly common decision to change their surname. **We urge you to remove the *SAVE Act* from consideration and immediately address these issues to prevent the disenfranchisement of American women voters.**

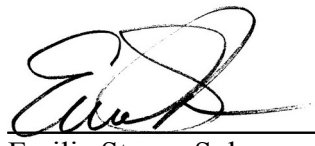
Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Hillary J. Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



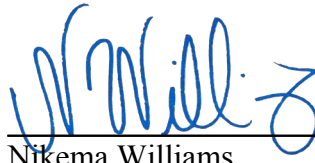
Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus

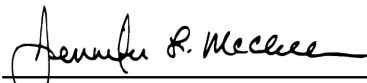


Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus

² Bedekovics, Greta, and Sydney Bryant. “The SAVE Act Would Disenfranchise Millions of Citizens.” Center for American Progress, January 31, 2025. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-save-act-would-disenfranchise-millions-of-citizens/>.

³ “Return to Pre-Pandemic Passport Processing Times” U.S. Department of State, December 18, 2023. <https://2021-2025.state.gov/return-to-pre-pandemic-passport-processing-times/>.

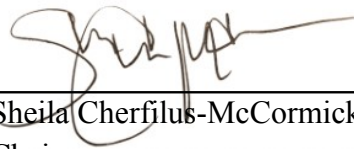
⁴ Bedekovics and Bryant, “The SAVE Act Would Disenfranchise Millions of Citizens.”



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



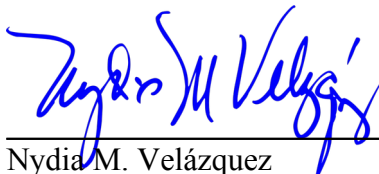
Julie Johnson
Equality Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



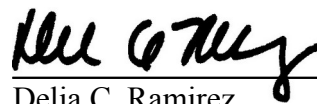
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Chair
Global Women's Issues Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



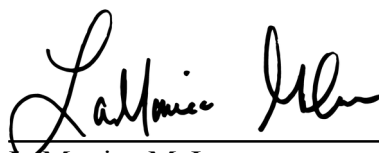
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



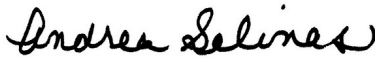
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



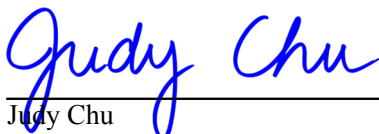
Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Norma J. Torres
New Democrat Coalition
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



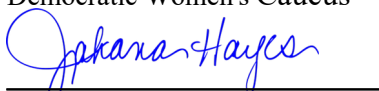
Judy Chu
Co-Chair
Reproductive Health Care Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



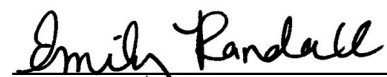
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



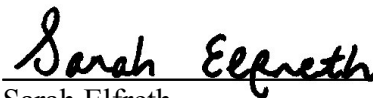
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



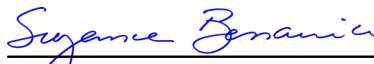
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



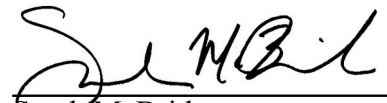
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



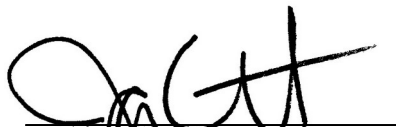
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Chair & Liaison
Reproductive Health Care
Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



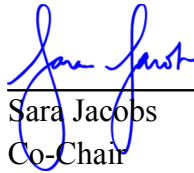
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



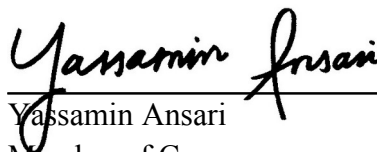
Sara Jacobs
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



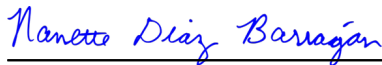
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



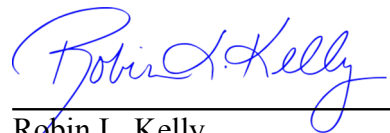
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



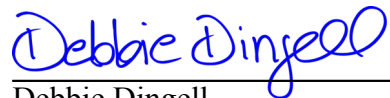
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Senate Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus