



The National Coalition on Accessible Voting (NCAV) Strongly Opposes the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act and Similar Legislative Efforts to Suppress the Vote of Marginalized Communities

07/03/2024

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Washington DC—On May 8, Senator Lee (R-UT) and Representative Roy (R-TX) introduced the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, which would drastically affect multiple minority communities, including the disability community. This legislation requires Americans to provide proof of documentation of citizenship status in order to register to vote or cast their ballot. Instead of fueling voter suppression with dangerous rhetoric and discriminatory provisions, Congress should act to protect and expand the right to vote for all Americans.

The SAVE Act is duplicative, dangerous, and discriminatory. There are already laws in place that prohibit noncitizens from voting in all state and federal elections. Voters must attest under penalty of perjury that they are a citizen when registering to vote. Moreover, there is no evidence of widespread noncitizen voting in federal and state elections.

Legislation like the SAVE Act only serves to discourage participation in the democratic process and disenfranchises voters in multi-marginalized communities, including the disability community. The consequences of enacting such laws has the potential to negatively impact the rights of

disabled voters, including the right to voter assistance, or total exclusion from the democratic process based on perception and false misconceptions.

NCAV calls for Congress to pass legislation that would advance, expand, and protect the rights of all voters, such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Amendments Act (H.R.14/S.4). This legislation, for example, would restore voting rights safeguards and modernize protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Further, Congress has a constitutional responsibility to ensure fair and equal access to the vote for all voters, including those with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Center for Living & Working, Inc

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley

National Council On Developmental Disabilities

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

New Disabled South

SABE – Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

The Arc of the United States

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies