

Remarks, Talking Points:

Remarks (5 minutes MAX)

- Thank you, Chair Steil [style] and Ranking Member Morelle [more-elli], for providing me with an opportunity to testify today about how the SAVE Act could strip 70 million American women in the United States of their right to vote.
- Let me start by pointing out a fact some my colleagues seem incapable of accepting: Non-citizens cannot vote. That is the law. Non-citizens do not vote. That is a fact.
- My colleagues on the other side have decided to use disinformation to whip people into a fear-driven frenzy to suppress the votes of anyone who threatens their extremist, unconstitutional, white supremacist, authoritarian agenda.
- Including women.
- As Chair Steil admitted in his testimony in front of the Rules Committee last Congress, under the SAVE Act, Americans would not be able to register to vote with their driver's license or REAL IDs.
- IDs do not meet the SAVE Act's requirements of showing a holder's citizenship status because – again – the fact is that non-citizens can legally access REAL IDs.
- So, the only documentation that is acceptable under the SAVE Act that most Americans will be able to use are passports and birth certificates paired with IDs.
- The problem?
- Only half of Americans own a passport, and an estimated 70 million women in the United States changed their name upon marriage– meaning their IDs and birth certificates don't match.
 - According to the Pew Research Center, nearly 80% of American women adopt their husband's name.
 - It is my understanding that the three women who serve on the House Administration Committee majority did that.
- So, if they don't have a passport, and their birth certificate doesn't match their ID, what happens then?
- According to the text of the SAVE Act, these 70 million American citizens will be unable to prove their citizenship and would be barred from registering to vote.

- However, the impact is not limited to married women. This is also about survivors of domestic violence who decided to create new identities for themselves and sometimes for their sons and daughters.
- They will be penalized for ensuring their survival. That is unacceptable.
- I've heard from Republicans over and over again how they want to protect women.
- So, I want to believe that Chair Steil wouldn't want to disenfranchise 28% of his constituents— the over 162,000 women in Wisconsin's 1st congressional district whose IDs do not match their birth certificates.
- And I like to think my colleague from Illinois who serves on this Committee, Congresswoman Miller, would not want to prevent two-and-a-half million women in our state Illinois— including 186,000 in her district, Illinois's 15th congressional district—from exercising their right to vote.
- The SAVE Act is not an election security bill. It is carefully constructed legislation targeting American women, targeting Americans— Black, Brown, veterans, Indigenous, and working class.
- It is a bill to disenfranchise millions upon millions of Americans.
- It is part of the authoritarian playbook – including the funding freeze and the persecution of diverse cities- and it takes courage and moral clarity to stand against it.
- I invite every member of this Committee and the House— Democrats and Republicans— to see this bill for what it is and to stand on the right side of history against the SAVE Act.
- Thank you for your time and your attention.