

Dear Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

I urge you to reject the SAVE Act. This bill will make it harder for countless Ohioans to exercise their constitutional right to vote, and it risks disqualifying valid ballots from potentially hundreds of thousands of eligible voters. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and every effort to limit it is unpatriotic and weakens the very ideals this country was founded on.

Under this bill, voters would be forced to cast provisional ballots over minor discrepancies between their ID and voter registration, such as a legal name change after marriage, a missing middle initial, or an address that hasn't been updated since their last license renewal. Those forced to vote provisionally could ultimately lose their registration altogether without notice. As a woman in Ohio who legally changed my name when I married, I find this especially troubling. My information is fully documented and lawful, yet under this legislation, that simple, routine change could cause my vote not to count.

The SAVE Act would ban all ballot drop boxes across the state, even those outside county Boards of Elections. Because Ohio does not recognize Election Day as a state holiday and employers aren't required to give workers time off, drop boxes are an essential secure way for many voters balancing jobs, school, and family. Eliminating them will force thousands to spend hours in line or risk losing their right to vote altogether.

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights we share as Americans. The SAVE Act doesn't protect voters; it punishes them for ordinary life events and bureaucratic errors that have nothing to do with fraud. Multiple studies have shown that voter fraud is a statistical rarity. The SAVE Act would disenfranchise tens of thousands of eligible Ohioans in pursuit of a problem that doesn't exist. It would waste millions of taxpayer dollars creating unnecessary bureaucracy and defending the inevitable lawsuits that will follow. Ohio cannot afford such waste – financially or democratically.

I urge you to reject the SAVE Act and stand up for the right of every voter in Ohio to cast their ballot freely, confidently, and without unnecessary illegal obstacles. Protecting the vote is not a partisan issue. It's an American one.

Sincerely,
Brittany Hulbert