

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following: 1) an article from NBC News, headlined "Speaker Mike Johnson and Trump allies who tried to overturn the 2020 election roll out voting 'integrity' bill," 2) a letter from the AFL-CIO expressing the organization's strong opposition to the SAVE Act, and 3) a letter from Common Cause, expressing the organization's strong opposition to the SAVE Act.

[May 8, 2024]

SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON AND TRUMP ALLIES
WHO TRIED TO OVERTURN THE 2020 ELECTION
ROLL OUT VOTING 'INTEGRITY' BILL

Washington—Same of the conservative leaders of the effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election gathered in front of the Capitol on Wednesday and called on Congress to pass an "election integrity" bill to stop noncitizens from voting.

Leading the group, Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., acknowledged that undocumented immigrants voting in elections is already illegal under federal law. "Some have noted that it's already a crime for noncitizens to vote in a federal election, and that is true," Johnson said.

But he argued that people know "intuitively" that noncitizens are voting, even though he could not provide estimates of how many. Multiple studies have shown that noncitizen voting is extremely rare in federal elections.

"I mean, the answer is that it's unanswerable," Johnson said. "That is the problem . . . We all know, intuitively, that a lot of illegals are voting in federal elections. But it's not been something that is easily provable. We don't have that number. This legislation will allow us to do exactly that. It will prevent that from happening. And if someone tries to do it, it will now be unlawful within the states. We'll have a mechanism to prove whether they are or not."

A constitutional lawyer and close Donald Trump ally, Johnson played a pivotal role in Trump's push to overturn the 2020 election. He led the amicus brief, signed by more than 100 House Republicans, backing a Texas lawsuit seeking to invalidate the 2020 election results in four key swing states won by President Joe Biden.

Johnson was joined Wednesday by Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, and Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, two lawmakers whose text messages to then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows were featured prominently in the Jan. 6 committee's investigation into the attack.

Others on hand included a who's who of MAGA conservatives. Among them were Stephen Miller, the former White House senior adviser to Trump, Jenny Beth Martin, the Tea Party Patriots co-founder who was outside the capitol with a bullhorn on Jan. 6, 2021; and Clete Mitchell, the conservative activist who was on the January 2021 call with Trump when he told Georgia Secretary of

State Brad Raffensperger to "find" 11,000 votes, enough to overturn the state's election results.

Two other former Trump administration officials, Hogan Gidley and Ken Cuccinelli, also spoke Wednesday.

When asked at the news conference whether he accepts the 2020 election results, Johnson replied "What we're talking about today is the 2024 election".

But he went on to say "Nobody can go back and relitigate what happened in 2020. We know that there was ballot harvesting, we know that there was mail-in ballots. It was the Covid election. There was all sorts of irregularity occasioned by the pandemic, where states haphazardly put together new laws and opened up the systems and led to all sorts of confusion and chaos and concern that lingers even to the day."

"Ballot harvesting" refers to a third party, such as a family member, collecting voted ballots to return. Conservatives have lambasted the practice, but the RNC is embracing it in the 2024 elections "where legal".

Miller, who's burnished a reputation in Washington as an anti-immigration hardliner, attempted to troll the media and Democrats as he stood on the same House steps where Trump supporters had climbed and overtaken police officers on Jan. 6, 2021.

"Democracy in America is under attack," Miller said. He railed against the "wide-open border and obstruction of any effort to verify the citizenship of who votes in our elections".

Despite the lack of evidence of noncitizen voting, Miller echoed unsubstantiated conspiracy theories that Democrats are importing voters to help Biden win re-election.

Johnson first unveiled the framework of the legislation last month, standing with Trump during a visit to his Mar-a-Lago resort. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, would make it harder to register people to vote by requiring proof of citizenship. That could include showing a U.S. passport, a photo ID showing that the individual was born in the United States, or a birth certificate—documents that millions of Americans do not have access to, voting rights advocates say.

The speaker pushed back when NBC News pointed out that the legislation would not go anywhere in the Democratic-controlled Senate or be signed into law by Biden.

"This is not a messaging bill. This is one of the most substantive . . . most important pieces of legislation that will be presented within our lifetime, in our congressional careers. This is at the essence of what it means to have a constitutional republic. If people cannot rely upon the integrity of that system, then we have nothing," Johnson said.

"And so we'll do it out of the House and we'll send it to the Senate, and we'll let Chuck Schumer decide whether he agrees with that sentiment or not," Johnson said. "We're not doing this for messaging purposes."

AFL-CIO,
July 10, 2024.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 12.5 million workers and 60 affiliate unions represented by the AFL-CIO, I write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 8281, the "Secure America's Voters and Elections (SAVE) Act." This bill mandates proof of

citizenship documentation to register to vote, despite current federal laws already prohibiting noncitizens from voting in federal elections. Our current electoral system effectively ensures that only eligible voters participate, with no evidence of widespread fraud found in numerous recounts and investigations.

The SAVE Act creates unnecessary barriers to voter participation, especially for marginalized communities who may struggle to obtain such documentation. It limits acceptable IDs to passports, excluding others like REAL ID driver's licenses and military IDs unless coupled with additional documentation such as a birth certificate. This places an extreme burden on many Americans, including military personnel, Native Americans, those who have changed their names (particularly women), the elderly, the young, the poor, and naturalized citizens.

The bill introduces criminal penalties for election officials who register voters without documented proof of citizenship, risking fear and hesitation among these officials. Additionally, it mandates the already overburdened Social Security Administration to verify voter citizenship information for states without providing additional funding.

Moreover, the bill mandates that states immediately remove non-citizens from voter rolls upon receipt of proof or verified information of non-citizenship. This risks erroneously disenfranchising eligible voters due to potential administrative errors and unreliable data sources. The use of third-party databases to verify citizenship raises concerns about data accuracy, privacy, and potential disenfranchisement. Clarifying that provisional ballots can only be counted if citizenship is verified adds further hurdles for voters facing administrative errors or documentation issues. These measures further limit the accessibility and inclusivity of our electoral process.

In short, the SAVE Act functions to deny Americans access to their democracy, not improve election integrity. Congress must safeguard free and fair elections and ensure all Americans can exercise their right to vote by opposing the SAVE Act and supporting measures that enhance voter participation, inclusivity, and the integrity of our electoral process.

Sincerely,

JODY CALEMINI,
Director, Government Affairs.

COMMON CAUSE,
July 9, 2024.

COMMON CAUSE URGES "NO" VOTE ON THE
"SAVE" ACT; WILL "SCORE" VOTE IN OUR
2024 DEMOCRACY SCORECARD

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of Common Cause's more than 1.5 million members, we write in strong opposition to the "SAVE Act" (H.R. 8281) and urge a "no" vote. We will score this vote in our forthcoming 2024 Democracy Scorecard that we send to national and state press, as well as all of our members.

The "SAVE Act" is a solution in search of a problem. Noncitizen voting is already illegal at the federal level and is not allowed at the state level in any state. In fact, all voters are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering to vote in federal elections.

There is cross-ideological recognition that voting by people who aren't U.S. citizens is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

incredibly rare. A comprehensive analysis by the Brennan Center for Justice from the 2016 general election found that out of 23.5 million votes in 42 jurisdictions, only an estimated 30 incidents of suspected noncitizen voting were referred for further investigation or prosecution. This amounts to just 0.0001 percent of votes cast. Additionally, the Cato Institute concluded in 2020 that “there is no good evidence that noncitizens voted illegally in large enough numbers to actually shift the outcome of elections.” And a Heritage Foundation analysis of legal actions regarding election conduct found only 24 instances of noncitizens voting between 2003 and 2023.

Requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote would disenfranchise millions of Republican, Democratic, and independent voters who don't have a passport, birth certificate, or other form of identification required under this bill. This would disproportionately affect women, voters of color, poorer Americans, and older Americans, thus creating further barriers for these communities, many of whom already face hurdles to having their voices heard.

We therefore urge a “no” vote on the “SAVE Act” and call on the House of Representatives to instead vote on pro-voter bills like the Freedom to Vote Act and John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA KASE SOLOMON,
President & CEO, Common Cause.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO DOUG BARNES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Doug Barnes. As Grapevine's favorite custodian, Doug was recently bid a heartwarming farewell by Heritage Elementary School to celebrate his retirement. Affectionately known as Mr. Doug, students at Heritage Elementary have been influenced deeply by his positivity, long cherishing his daily tradition of greeting them with high fives.

Even on his days off, Doug can be found at the students' soccer games and other activities to show his support and cheer them on. Heritage Elementary organized a special surprise to mark the end of Doug's time with the school. In true ‘Mr. Doug’ fashion, students and staff gathered for a celebration of high fives and hugs as they lined the parking lot to thank him with handmade signs and cards. The bittersweet goodbye brought Doug to tears as he reflected on his relationship with the students, saying there's no greater feeling than sowing seeds of kindness and watching them bloom.

Doug's role within the school community and in the hearts of these students is truly irreplaceable. He has gone above and beyond to show the value of kindness and the great impact that even the smallest of gestures can have.

I'd like to thank Doug for exemplifying compassion and setting a great example for young North Texans. His legacy of love and support will always be treasured by our community. Congratulations to Mr. Doug on his retirement.

WE ARE ISRAELIS CALLING ON
CONGRESS TO DISINVITE
NETANYAHU

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following guest essay published in The New York Times, which my dear friend and prominent constituent, Ralph Nader, shared with me.

[From The New York Times, June 26, 2024]

WE ARE ISRAELIS CALLING ON CONGRESS TO
DISINVITE NETANYAHU

(By David Harel, Tamir Pardo, Talia Sasson, Ehud Barak, Aaron Ciechanover and David Grossman)

The leaders of the U.S. Congress have invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel to address a joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives on July 24. Normally, we Israelis would consider the invitation recognition of our two nations' shared values and a welcome gesture from our closest friend and ally, to whom we are deeply and morally indebted.

But Congress has made a terrible mistake. Mr. Netanyahu's appearance in Washington will not represent the State of Israel and its citizens, and it will reward his scandalous and destructive conduct toward our country.

We come from a variety of areas of Israeli society: science, technology, politics, defense, law and culture. We are thus in a good position to assess the overall effect of Mr. Netanyahu's government, and like many, we believe that he is driving Israel downhill at an alarming speed, to the extent that we may eventually lose the country we love.

To date, Mr. Netanyahu has failed to come up with a plan to end the war in Gaza and has been unable to gain the freedom of scores of hostages. At the very least, an invitation to address Congress should have been contingent upon resolving these two issues and, in addition, calling for new elections in Israel. Inviting Mr. Netanyahu will reward his contempt for U.S. efforts to establish a peace plan, allow more aid to the beleaguered people of Gaza and do a better job of sparing civilians. Time and again, he has rejected President Biden's plan to remove Hamas from power in Gaza through the establishment of a peacekeeping force. Such a move would very likely bring in its wake a far broader regional alliance, including a vision to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is not only in Israel's interest but also in the interest of both political parties in the United States. Mr. Netanyahu constitutes the main obstacle to these outcomes.

The man who will address Congress next month has failed to assume responsibility for the blunders that allowed the Hamas assault, initially blaming security chiefs (then quickly backtracking), and has yet to announce the establishment of a direly needed state commission of inquiry headed by a Supreme Court judge to look into the fiasco.

Despite the fierce fighting in Gaza and daily casualties on both sides, following Hamas's terrible attacks on Oct. 7, Mr. Netanyahu continues to push forward with the authoritarian remaking of Israel as if nothing has changed. The Israeli police force, under the command of the far-right-wing security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, has cracked down violently on demonstrators. The appointments of court judges and a Supreme Court president remain on hold. Central scientific and cultural institutions con-

tinue to endure governmental attempts at political control. Large sums of money have been channeled recklessly to the ultra-Orthodox, who by and large do not share the economic and security burden of Israel's citizens, especially by remaining exempt from serving in the military. Tuesday's Supreme Court ruling overturning the exemption is a step forward, although the practical impact is unclear, given that Mr. Netanyahu has proposed enshrining the exemption in a law.

Above all, many Israelis are convinced that Mr. Netanyahu has obstructed proposed deals with Hamas that would have led to the release of the hostages in order to keep the war going and thus avoid the inevitable political reckoning he will face when it ends.

Mr. Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister, whose support Mr. Netanyahu needs to maintain his government, are strongly opposed to stopping the war in Gaza, even for a temporary truce. They demand that the Gaza Strip be conquered and filled with new settlements.

For months now, many of us have participated in nationwide demonstrations demanding an immediate release of the hostages, an end to the war and immediate elections. Polls of Israelis show that a majority want immediate elections, or elections right at the end of the war.

A large portion of Israelis have lost faith in Mr. Netanyahu's government. He is clinging to power thanks to a tenuous parliamentary majority. That majority ignores the plight of tens of thousands of Israelis displaced in the south after the Hamas attack and in the north because of attacks by Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the families of the hostages, a powerful force now in Israel.

That's where Mr. Netanyahu's speech to Congress fits in with his political needs. No doubt it will be carefully stage-managed to prop up his shaky hold on power and allow him to boast to his constituents about America's so-called support for his failed policies.

His supporters in Israel will be emboldened by his appearance in Congress to insist that the war continue, which will further distance any deal to secure the release of the hostages, including several U.S. citizens.

Giving Mr. Netanyahu the stage in Washington will all but dismiss the rage and pain of his people, as expressed in the demonstrations throughout the country. American lawmakers should not let that happen. They should ask Mr. Netanyahu to stay home.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOKAN GOODWILL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with abundant joy and eternal gratitude in recognition of the 130th anniversary of Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas, affectionately referred to by their beneficiaries as MoKan Goodwill. This year marks over a century of the organization's commitment to empowering people and strengthening communities by providing much-needed jobs, affordable household goods, and employment training services to Greater Kansas City's most vulnerable residents. I fully expect MoKan Goodwill to continue to faithfully provide their services for as long as there are Missourians and Kansans to accept them, and I ask that we take a moment to reflect on the organization's profound impact.