

attack on the fundamental rights of millions of Americans.

House Republicans are forcing a vote this week on the so-called SAVE Act, a bill that does nothing to stop inflation from driving up grocery prices, nothing to end Donald Trump's trade war that is pummeling the stock market, and nothing to protect Americans' retirements. Instead, this is a messaging bill, sloppily written and dangerously flawed, designed to create confusion and chaos in our electoral system rather than strengthen it.

The SAVE Act claims to prevent noncitizens from voting in Federal elections. At first glance, that may seem logical, if not for the fact that it is already illegal and has been for decades. Noncitizens caught voting in Federal elections already face deportation and even jail time.

Time and again, when pressed for evidence of widespread noncitizen voting, Republicans have failed to produce a single credible example. The reason? Because the problem they claim to be solving simply doesn't exist.

Why are we here today? Why are we debating a bill that addresses a non-existent problem while hardworking American families are struggling with rising costs and economic insecurity? Because Republicans in Congress don't have real solutions. Rather than addressing the issues that matter, like lowering grocery costs and helping families get ahead, they are prioritizing a bill that disenfranchises millions of American women.

Roughly 69 million women, about 25 percent of eligible voters in our country, have IDs that do not match their birth certificates, usually because they changed their name once they got married. Under this bill, if they don't have a passport—and half of Americans don't—they wouldn't be able to register to vote.

Think about that: Tens of millions of women, the backbone of our families and our communities, stripped of their right to vote simply because they got married.

Imagine a woman who has voted in every election since she turned 18, who pays her taxes, who contributes to her community. One day, she learns that because her name changed when she got married, she is suddenly unable to register to vote in her State.

No amount of documentation, no Social Security card, no marriage license, no previous voter registration will satisfy the requirements of this bill unless she possesses an updated passport or a birth certificate that matches her current name.

This isn't just bureaucratic nonsense. It is an outrageous attack on the rights of women across our country.

The worst part, Madam Speaker, is that Republicans have known that this was an issue with this bill for years, and they have done nothing to fix it. They either don't care that millions of American women will be stripped of their right to vote or that has been

their goal all along. Either way, this is going to create chaos in every State in America, and it is going to make it harder for Americans to participate in their democracy.

It appears to be the latest in a long series of tactics, like polling place closures and gerrymandering, designed to silence voters that Republican politicians don't think they can win.

That is not how democracy works. You don't get to silence millions of Americans just because they might not like your policies. You represent them, too.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this dangerous legislation and protect the rights of every eligible voter in the country because our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard and every vote is counted.

ENSURING ELECTION INTEGRITY

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I wanted to speak a little bit about the SAVE Act and what it is supposed to do to ensure election integrity for our country.

The commentary that this is somehow going to disenfranchise people who normally vote is just part of the rhetoric of this place that obscures that our elections aren't completely secure when we have millions of illegal immigrants in this country who have been given driver's licenses, IDs, without having passed the muster of actually doing citizenship efforts.

Why should that apply to elections? You already see municipalities around this country trying to give the right, the privilege, of votes to people who are not here legally.

In the previous example given, if someone has had a recent marriage but their name doesn't quite match yet because they haven't gotten their legal documents, there is a provision for that called provisional voting that you can utilize at that time of election and then go through the process of proving, yes, this is my citizenship in order to ensure that we have elections with integrity.

When our elections are key to deciding who makes the laws in this country, who makes the policy decisions, they need to be secure. If we can't trust the people in office who are actually chosen by American citizens, what exactly do we have?

Only American citizens are supposed to vote in Federal elections. Weak laws have made it, as I mentioned, easier now for noncitizens to get on the voter rolls in certain municipalities.

When President Biden took office, that administration let at least 4.6 million illegal immigrants into the country, with nearly 2 million more slipping in without being stopped, and these are probably low numbers. It is hard to estimate.

Some blue States, as I mentioned, have given these individuals driver's licenses and other benefits, which then can help them in loosely run State election rolls illegally register to vote in Federal elections. We need to draw the line at least at Federal election levels.

Some blue cities have let them vote in local elections to cause even more confusion and abuse of the process. It is deliberate.

Federal law has blocked States from requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote, making it easier for the system to be exploited. That is actually against the Constitution.

How would the SAVE Act go about fixing this? CHIP ROY's SAVE Act would require proof of U.S. citizenship and identity shown in person at the place of election when registering or on voting day. This rule would apply either when someone signs up at the DMV, a government office, or through the mail.

Making fair exceptions, if someone is a citizen but doesn't have the usual paperwork, like for religious reasons, they could go through, as I mentioned, an alternative process with strict rules like sworn affidavits.

The bill also makes sure there are accommodations for disabled Americans so they aren't wrongly excluded.

It addresses cases when someone's documentation might not match their legal name, as I mentioned here, with their name change through marriage, divorce, or adoption.

Some people, especially married women, may face these issues if their IDs don't exactly match. Under the SAVE Act, it would require setting up a process in the States to confirm the identity in these cases, therefore allowing them to vote while it is being sorted out.

It could include showing legal documents like a marriage certificate or a court order proving a name change. These provisions ensure that legitimate voters aren't turned away while still keeping strong safeguards against fraud.

In cleaning up the voter rolls, the SAVE Act requires States to remove noncitizens from voter rolls and gives them access to Federal databases to help verify citizenship at no cost to the States. Election officials that ignore these rules or allow noncitizens to register can be sued and penalized, as they should be.

The Election Assistance Commission will also update Federal registration forms to make sure these new security measures are properly put in place. This matters because Americans deserve to know that their vote counts and isn't canceled out by illegal ballots. What an insult.

This isn't about politics. It is making sure only legal voters decide who represents us in Washington, as well as at the State and local levels, as it should be.

The SAVE Act is a simple, common-sense way to restore trust in our elections and keep them honest. If we want

fair elections, Congress needs to act and act now.

The SAVE Act helps to protect our democracy—which isn't really a democracy; it is a republic—enforce our laws, and make sure that American citizens, not foreign nationals, decide our future. It is common sense. Let's get it done.

RECKLESS INCOMPETENCE OF SIGNAL CHAT PUT SERVICEMEMBERS AT RISK

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep shock, concern, and outrage at the carelessness of the Trump administration in disclosing highly sensitive operational military plans on a commercial chat platform that included a reporter.

Without a doubt, this reckless incompetence put our servicewomen and men in danger.

Last week, I received a call from a constituent whose son is deployed abroad in the region. His son's mission was personally put at risk by the very same people charged with safeguarding our Armed Forces who put their lives on the line for us.

This Arizona father and his son sacrifice for our country, and we should all be ashamed that this is how their service is repaid.

The Trump administration officials who set up and participated in this Signal chat debacle should have taken responsibility for their egregious mistake and instantly offered their resignation for having violated the law, contravened common sense, and put American troops in harm's way.

Let me put it this way: Not only did the National Security Advisor set up an illegal, unsecured chat with the Secretary of Defense, the CIA Director, the Vice President, and others to discuss highly, highly sensitive and imminent attack plans, but they also bungled their way into adding a random person into the chat.

We should not be surprised in the slightest that the Trump administration treats our Nation's secrets this way. This is the same man, after all, who had our nuclear codes sitting in his bathroom in Mar-a-Lago. The way that the administration has handled this entire calamity has been equally as dangerous.

Secretary of Defense Hegseth straight-up lied. He said there was no classified information on the chat, that he didn't share attack plans, and that no troops were put in harm's way.

Then, there is our Director of National Intelligence, who is supposedly our Nation's most trusted, meticulous secretkeeper, who went before the Senate to mislead, evade, and perjure herself. What a truly disgraceful episode.

This is not a partisan issue. In fact, both the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee,

in a bipartisan manner, requested that the Pentagon investigate the use of the Signal app to share classified information.

We can all agree that no government employee, let alone a Cabinet member, should be sharing classified information in a Signal chat and be careless enough to add a reporter to it, as well. There should be a serious after action review to prevent this from ever happening again and one that considers the criminality involved.

Yet another Trump lackey, our Attorney General, who is officially supposed to be the people's lawyer, is ruling out a criminal investigation into this scheme altogether.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, these are the same people that spent the better part of a decade looking into Hillary's emails. They evidently do not care to even pretend to investigate how our Nation's most secret information is being shared.

The ramifications of this unmitigated disaster will be felt for years, even decades, to come. Why would any of our allies share sensitive information with us if the Secretary of Defense is just going to pop it into a group chat and share it with the editor in chief of a national publication?

In conjunction with all of the other actions the Trump administration has taken to dismiss or turn our backs on our allies, I am deeply concerned about how Signal-gate will make us much, much less safe in the long term. Our Nation deserves better. Our servicewomen and servicemen deserve better. We deserve better.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LEONARD MESSINEO

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take you back 100 years to the year 1925. "The Great Gatsby" had just been published. In this very Chamber, the House voted to authorize the construction of Mount Rushmore. Entertainment legend Dick Van Dyke was born.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of someone else born that same year, 1925, an American hero named Leonard Messineo of Amelia Island, Florida. Born on April 30, 1925, Len served bravely in World War II with the Army's 20th Armored Division. In April 1945, just days before the war in Europe ended, his unit fought through heavy resistance, helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp, and patrolled Hitler's vacated Eagle's Nest.

Hitler took his own life on Len's 20th birthday; and Len proudly marks his birthday each year, saying that he celebrates April 30 for Hitler's demise.

After the war, Len earned an engineering degree on the GI Bill and built a successful career in manufacturing, including for the U.S. Army. He later

became an award-winning nature photographer.

Len's greatest legacy is his family which includes two daughters, Deb and Lynn, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and even a grand-dog named Charlie.

We wish Len a happy 100th birthday. We thank him for his service, his life, and his enduring example. May God continue to bless him.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DON FANN

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when you are lost, you need to find the way. In Clay County, Florida, when you need medical care and don't know where to turn, you need to find The Way Free Medical Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the retirement of Mr. Don Fann who served as executive director of The Way Free Medical Clinic from 2017 to 2024.

When Don first joined The Way Clinic in 2017 as interim director, his task was clear. It was to stabilize a struggling organization and ensure its continued service to those most in need. Not only, Mr. Speaker, did he meet that challenge but he also exceeded every expectation.

Through his tireless efforts to secure funding, forge partnerships, and implement sustainable programs, Don guided the clinic through a time of transformation. Today, the brand new Way Free Medical Clinic building offers both medical and dental services to countless individuals who otherwise would go without.

Don's professional success is only matched by his personal dedication. Don consistently placed the needs of others above his own. His empathy, resilience, and quiet determination inspired those around him to become hallmarks of the clinic's culture. His values of service, compassion, and hope are now woven into the very identity of The Way Free Medical Clinic.

As Don Fann retires, I join many in thanking him for his years of outstanding service and leadership. May the next chapter of his life be filled with the same purpose, joy, and generosity that defined him and his time at The Way Free Medical Clinic. We are proud of him.

HONORING SHANNON GOODRICH

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we close Women's History Month, I rise to honor a few great women in my district, women like Shannon Goodrich, a leader of the Elmhurst chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Shannon joined the group after attending a fireside chat about school safety in her community. Like all parents, she was concerned about what local leaders were doing to keep children safe from the tragic epidemic of school shootings. Shannon saw that she could play an important role as a mom and as a member of her community.