

In an August 2024 United Nations report on violence against women and girls, they had this to say about the results of men participating in women's sports:

According to information received, by 30 March 2024, over 600 female athletes in more than 400 competitions have lost more than 890 medals in 29 different sports.

Over 600 female athletes in more than 400 competitions have lost more than 800 medals in 29 different sports.

The SAVE America Act would ensure that men are not allowed to hijack women's sporting opportunities. Yet, once again, we expect my Democrat colleagues to oppose keeping women's sports for women.

The idea that a female high school athlete might lose out on a college scholarship because her achievements were overshadowed by those of a biological male on her team is bad enough, but an even more dangerous consequence of the embrace of transgender ideology is the children who have become victims of irreversible gender transition procedures. And when I say "children," I mean children: young men and women who are not old enough to vote, who are years away from being able to legally drink, who still need parental permission to take medicine at school.

The New York Times reports:

A review of hospital data from 2016 through 2020 identified about 3,600 patients aged 12 to 18 who had received gender-related surgery.

Aged 12 to 18. Can the Presiding Officer imagine that? Can the Presiding Officer imagine allowing a child not yet out of middle school to receive a medical procedure that will result in permanent mutilation of part of her body?

This madness has to end. Multiple European countries have acted to rein in gender transition procedures for minors and so have a number of U.S. States. The SAVE America Act would extend protection from these procedures to all children, whatever State they live in.

Commonsense measures: require proof of citizenship to register to vote, require a photo ID at the polls, protect women's sports from being hijacked by biological males, and protect teenagers from life-altering, irreversible gender transition procedures—measures, I might add again, supported by a majority of Americans and measures we expect my Democrat colleagues to oppose.

It is unfortunate that common sense is not very common anymore in the Democratic Party.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the SAVE America Act. I support the SAVE America Act. I believe that anybody that votes in an American election needs to be an American citizen, and I believe that anyone who shows up to vote needs to present a photo ID to prove they are who they say they are.

Free and fair elections are the foundation of our Nation. It is the 250th anniversary this year of our founding. Voting here is about American citizens voting. And without strong protections, this foundation of 250 years will crumble.

The American people are clear. They believe American elections should be decided by American citizens, not by illegal immigrants.

Listen to the Democrats talk. They think it is fine, let any illegal immigrant vote. You heard from the minority leader yesterday in terms of what we want to do to protect the rights of American citizens to make sure the elections are free and fair. When illegal immigrants vote, the voice of American citizens is undermined.

The fact is, Joe Biden's open border policies undermined elections in this country. Under Joe Biden and the Democrats, over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our country, to communities all across the State. Now, Democrats want to make it possible for illegal immigrants to decide the outcome of elections in this Nation.

Democrats are once again prioritizing illegal immigrants and illegal immigrant criminals over American citizens, and that is what they have been doing. That is why we are in the situation we are in, with a shutdown at the Department of Homeland Security and why, specifically, today we are on the floor to talk about the SAVE America Act.

Many far-left sanctuary cities already make it easier for illegal immigrants to vote. They have set it up that way because in 19 States and in the District of Columbia, illegal immigrants can get a driver's license with no proof of citizenship whatsoever.

I am against it. I have opposed it from the beginning when the first State proposed it, and now, 19 States and the District do it. In California, in Maryland, Vermont, and Washington, DC, noncitizens are allowed to vote in local elections. I think that is wrong.

It is a felony for illegal immigrants to vote in Federal elections; yet we know it is happening.

Last week, the Department of Homeland Security arrested a criminal illegal immigrant from Africa. He entered the Nation illegally over 20 years ago. He was ordered to be deported in 2002. He first registered to vote in 2005, and he has been voting in Federal elections since 2008.

Most recently, this illegal immigrant voted in the 2024 election. He voted in the State of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is a swing State. It was won by

tight margins in both the Presidential and the Senate races.

He should have never been allowed to vote in the United States, and this should never be allowed to happen.

Now, the SAVE America Act protects the vote of every single American citizen. What it says is simple: If you want to vote in the United States of America, you need to be a citizen of the United States of America, and you need to show a photo ID at the poll in order to vote. It is common sense.

Americans show ID every single day. You want to buy a beer? You need to show an ID. You want to get on a plane? You need to show a photo ID.

I have people here in the Gallery from Wyoming—students from Burlington and their teachers, optometrists from around the State of Wyoming. They are all flying back to Wyoming. Every one of them is going to have to show a photo ID to get on the plane.

If you want to cash a check, you need to show a photo ID. Voting should be equally important to show a photo ID.

It should be no different than all these other things. Photo IDs protect against voter fraud, and they prevent illegal immigrants from voting.

Most importantly, it tells each American citizen that their vote counts and their vote matters, and it is not going to be watered down by people who are not citizens of the United States.

American voters in 36 States, including Wyoming, already show an ID in order to vote in elections. We do have voter ID laws in Wyoming. And getting a voter ID is actually free, no cost involved.

So the SAVE America Act that we are going to be discussing and voting on today builds on current, commonsense laws that work in so many States. It makes it easy to vote, and it makes it harder to cheat in every State across the country.

Every Democrat ought to be supporting this, but none of them do. Why do Democrats in this Chamber oppose showing an ID to vote? I think the minority leader is opposed because—in his words—he says it "allows ICE to kick tens of millions of people off the voter rolls." That is who the Democrats are fighting for—illegal immigrant voting. Not for American citizens, not for the rights of the American people to govern our own Nation—no, he is talking about tens of millions of people off the voter rolls.

How did they get on the voter rolls in the first place if they are not citizens? Well, it is automatic voter drives and when people sign up for a motor vehicle license, a driver's license. A number of States have automatic voter registration connected to it. So you get a license, and even if you are illegal, you can be signed up to vote. Certain States are in the process of having to try to figure out how they went wrong and what they need to do to correct it for Federal offices. Oregon State is in the middle of it right now.

If it is true that there are tens of millions of people on the voter rolls that CHUCK SCHUMER talked about that ICE would remove because they are not citizens on the voter rolls, how bad does it have to get? If that is the case, this situation is much worse than most Americans fear.

What we hear from the minority leader saying that this is Jim Crow 2.0—that is fearmongering, and he knows it.

One of our Democratic colleagues will be on this floor later today from the State of Georgia. He requires anybody that wants to show up at one of his campaign rallies to show a photo ID to get in. Apparently, you need to show a photo ID to get into a Georgia campaign rally for a Democrat, and he doesn't want you to have to show one to vote. I guess he doesn't want illegal immigrants at his rallies, but it is OK if they vote for him.

It is astonishing. Why do Democrats support showing a photo ID to attend a political rally and oppose it to vote in an election?

Look, what is clear to all of us is that Democrats oppose elections that limit participations to just American citizens. They don't like that idea. And they are likely to line up one after another today to vote to say: Nope, don't check the ID with a photo on it in order to vote because we want to cram as many people as we can with their ballots into the ballot box to be counted, no matter where they are from.

Democrats said the same thing after the State of Georgia enacted voter ID laws in 2021. What were the results? Well, more people actually voted, not fewer. Turnout hit record levels. The lines moved faster than ever before. The Democrats say it was an impediment.

Voter ID is important.

Democrats' voter suppression lies have been thoroughly debunked time and time again. Yet they continue to repeat them. Voter ID and citizenship proof are safeguards for our elections; they are not restrictions.

The SAVE America Act is how we make elections safe, secure, and a true reflection of the American people. Every American should desire that American elections be decided by American citizens. Who wouldn't? Well, somebody that wants to load up the ballots with people who may vote for them, whether they are citizens or not.

Every Member of the Senate should support the SAVE America Act. By opposing this bill, Democrats are once again putting illegal immigrants ahead of American voters, and Republicans are going to make sure that every voter in America and every citizen voter in America knows which side of that issue people stand on—photo ID and citizenship or not.

The Republicans are here to say it is important that only citizens vote and people prove who they are by showing a photo ID when they go to the ballot box.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, soon, the Senate will debate a bill. The bill is called the SAVE America Act.

The policies in this bill have the support of more than 80 percent of Americans. Some of my colleagues say that the SAVE America Act isn't necessary. They are wrong. There are two fundamental, commonsense reasons as to why 80 percent of Americans support the policies of this legislation.

No. 1, only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in our elections. So this bill simply requires Americans to show proof of citizenship when they register to vote.

No. 2, it requires a photo ID when voting. This helps to ensure the person who is registered to vote in that election is the person who is actually casting that ballot.

The SAVE America Act would give voters peace of mind that Federal elections are conducted fair and square. It would give voters peace of mind that their vote isn't diluted by people who are not eligible to vote.

I am a cosponsor of the SAVE America Act. I support free, transparent, and accurate elections. Every American deserves the absolute confidence that there is no funny business distorting election outcomes.

Let me tell you about the track record in my home State of Iowa.

Voter ID laws in my State have been successful and well received since the passage in 2017. Iowa's voter turnout increased in the 2018 mid-term elections, and turnout has continued to remain very strong. So the proof is in the pudding.

Iowa's track record demonstrates voter ID improves the integrity and security of our elections. It also enhances voter turnout and boosts public confidence in the outcomes of elections.

Nearly a century ago, a Supreme Court Justice said that States are the "laboratories of democracy." Guess what. Iowa has shown voter ID laws work. They don't impede voter turnout, as Iowa has shown. Voter ID boosts the public trust. In fact, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 36 States have voter ID laws on the books. This bill would apply a minimum Federal standard much like other Federal voting laws.

Partisan critics of this commonsense bill are misleading the public with bad information. This bill would not make it harder to vote. Americans ought to be insulted by the arguments being made on the other side of the aisle.

I am confident Americans are capable of bringing a photo ID with them to vote. That happens to be no different than when they drive, when they open a bank account, when they board an airplane, when they buy cold medicine, or sign up for government benefits. These are all examples of people showing ID.

Another argument claims it is unfair to require people to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote. That is even more revealing in coming from the other side because it makes the Biden administration's open border policy even more alarming.

After President Biden allowed more than 12 million people to illegally enter our country, protecting the right to vote for American citizens is top of mind to the millions of law-abiding citizens throughout America. Because of the influx of illegal immigrants streaming into our country during Biden's border crisis, it is not surprising Americans want to suppress voter fraud and ensure every ballot is legitimate.

The bill gives voters five different ways to show proof of citizenship, and it gives States the flexibility to create other pathways to show proof of citizenship. For example, for those whose current name doesn't match their birth certificate, they can provide a marriage certificate or other name change verification.

I have been honored to serve in my elective office for many decades. I have worked hard to earn every vote at the ballot box. Public trust in elective officeholders requires public trust in our elections.

Voting rights have a long history in America's march to a more perfect Union. They are enhanced by the 15th Amendment to the Federal Constitution and by the 19th Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

My mother was one of the very first women to cast a ballot after the ratification of the 19th Amendment. I have shown proof of that with placards here on the floor of the U.S. Senate in a speech that shows her picture in the Des Moines Register newspaper and the Waterloo Courier newspaper.

The SAVE America Act doesn't infringe on these hard-fought voting rights. It would preserve the integrity of every vote cast in a Federal election. Election integrity is sacred to our system of self-government.

Losing public trust in the outcome of elections would be a death knell for our fragile American experiment, even though it is 250 years long.

For our Nation's 250th birthday, the SAVE America Act is a gift to current and future generations to strengthen our system of self-government.

This brings me to more commonsense policies included in the bill, as well as the voting issues.

Like many Americans, I am alarmed by the prevalence of gender mutilation surgeries being performed on minors. Protecting children makes our society

stronger. Irreversible damage from gender reassignment surgery should not be conducted on kids. This bill would put an end to this reckless practice on American children. The SAVE America Act would make this policy the law of the land this very week.

On another issue in the bill, America is in the thick of March Madness. Filling out brackets, watching buzzer-beaters, and cheering on Cinderella contenders is a rite of passage during the month of March. I am thrilled to cheer on our Iowa teams in the NCAA Tournament, including two women's teams—the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Iowa State Cyclones—as well as three men's teams—the Hawkeyes, the Cyclones, and my alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa Panthers.

Earlier this month, the Iowa high school basketball tournament brought the best of 32 girls teams and 32 boys teams from across the State to compete in 4 divisions. These young athletes deserve to compete on a level playing field—girls against girls, boys against boys. This is a matter of fairness.

Our bill would guarantee a level playing field for young athletes. Title IX was enacted a few years before I became a Member of Congress. It has been a game changer for women's sports.

Just think of Iowa University's Caitlin Clark. She has blazed a trail for women's sports for generations to come.

The SAVE America Act delivers commonsense government to the American people. As a student of history, I would prophesize that Americans looking back at this debate, 250 years from now, will scratch their heads, because protecting election integrity and protecting women's sports are as American as motherhood and apple pie.

In fact, 80 percent of Americans are able to see eye to eye on these issues. When it comes to elections, 80 percent of the American people support voter ID. I have even seen polls that say that 71 percent of the Democrats support voter ID.

I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to join us and pass the SAVE America Act without delay.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this afternoon, Republicans will move to bring a pernicious, radical bill before the Senate, the so-called SAVE America Act. At a moment when war is consuming the Middle East, when costs are

rising, when ICE agents are terrorizing our communities, and when job growth in America is weakening, MAGA Republicans have chosen to focus on voter suppression.

We all know why Donald Trump wants this bill. He is afraid Republicans will lose in November. Trump says: Pass the SAVE Act, and it will "guarantee the midterms." Imagine manipulating the electoral process to try to make himself the winner when he thinks he is going to lose—not surprising, I suppose, from Donald Trump. The senior Senator from Utah says:

Republicans will lose power—likely for a long time—if we don't get SAVE America passed.

It is funny. I don't remember MAGA Republicans screaming about stolen elections and voter fraud after the 2024 election that they won. Well, the same rules that governed the 2024 election are going to be the ones that govern the 2026 election. The only difference is that this time, MAGA Republicans know they are in trouble politically, so now they are suddenly saying that the system is compromised and broken and that it needs to be changed.

It is all lies—all lies. And they want to drag down the entire Senate for who knows how long in a vain attempt to pass this bill.

Let's be clear. Senate Democrats will never allow the SAVE Act to pass this Chamber. If a small band of MAGA Senators wants to drag this out on the Senate floor, keep us here through the night, through days, or longer, while stalling all other important business, they can try. It will not work.

MAGA Republicans, Senate Democrats will hold the line as long as necessary because with this bill, democracy is at stake.

I want to be very clear. The SAVE Act is not about voter identification; it is about voter suppression. Under the SAVE Act, every single State would be required to share its voter rolls with the Department of Homeland Security—something even many Republican States do not want to do.

Those rolls would be reviewed by a system designed by none other than Elon Musk and his DOGE, using an algorithm that has already been shown to be deeply flawed.

Millions would be kicked off the rolls for no reason. This means American citizens—many, millions—would be booted off the rolls wrongly. If you are kicked off the rolls, you may never be told. There is no requirement to let you know. Then when you show up on election day ready to vote and a poll worker tells you "Sorry, you are not registered; you are not in the system," what do you do? You can't reregister that day, especially with the onerous requirements for registration in the SAVE Act.

As I said, it is not just as simple as reregistering. Under the bill, Americans would have to run through an obstacle course of redtape unlike anything we have ever seen in voter reg-

istration. A driver's license would no longer be enough. A military ID would no longer be enough. You would need something like a passport, which most Americans do not have, or a birth certificate, which many Americans cannot easily find. If you cannot produce these documents, you could be out of luck, even if you are an American citizen with every right to vote. That is almost certainly the majority—the vast majority—of who would be thrown off the rolls.

Meanwhile, say goodbye to some of the safest, most convenient, and most effective ways to register to vote. No more registering online. No more registering in churches. No more registering at college campuses. No more registering at the DMV. No more registering by mail. No more vote-by-mail. Many red States love vote-by-mail. Yet MAGA radicals want to eliminate it almost entirely.

I ask my Republican colleagues: How does it protect our elections to stop people from registering at church or at the DMV? How does it make our democracy safer to tell seniors, people with disabilities, or working Americans they cannot register online and must find their way to an election office, which is something only a fraction of Americans do today—5.9 percent, to be more precise. How does getting rid of vote-by-mail—something red States do, something blue States do—strengthen democracy? The answer is, it does not.

The SAVE Act is not about election integrity; it is about voter suppression, plain and simple. MAGA Republicans would rather take democracy down than back away from their own right-wing, extreme policies that have killed jobs, started wars, and exploited working people to benefit the ultrarich. Senate Democrats will not let them succeed.

I tell my Republican colleagues: Hear me—we will hold the line for as long as it takes.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, each day brings more evidence that Donald Trump has no idea what he is doing in Iran. Yesterday, the President effectively admitted his administration badly miscalculated Iran's responses to his attacks.

As he put it:

They hit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. Nobody expected it. We were shocked. They fought back.

Comments like that show that Donald Trump is in over his head.

The old saying goes: If you break it, you buy it.

Well, Donald Trump, you broke it badly, and now you are trying to get out of paying the price.

The Strait of Hormuz is effectively shut down. Oil prices continue to rise. Yesterday, we learned that about 200 American troops have now been injured in this conflict. Thirteen servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifice. We pray for them, their families, and for everyone in harm's way.