



April 7, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our outrage at your unconstitutional Executive Order that would gut voter registration procedures in the United States. The Executive Order you signed on March 25, if implemented, would disenfranchise millions of voters, particularly women voters, by requiring documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Your Executive Order is advertised as a way to prevent non-citizens from voting—which is already a crime punishable with up to five years in prison. In addition to being unconstitutional, unnecessary, and poorly written, this Order increases the burden of documentary proof to register to vote, which risks disenfranchising millions of women voters by creating unnecessary bureaucratic barriers. **We demand you revoke the Executive Order and work to make sure voting is accessible to all, especially women.**

First, the U.S. Constitution is clear, only Congress can alter federal elections. Your blatant disregard for the power and role of Congress and the fundamental civil rights of women is not only unconstitutional, it is a clear indication that you are well aware that requiring documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote as laid out in the *SAVE Act* and the Executive Order is immensely unpopular in communities across the country.

Furthermore, your Executive Order only explicitly includes one actual document that can consistently be used to prove citizenship: a passport. **146 million Americans do not have a**

passport and as many as 69 million women don't have citizenship documents that display their current legal name,¹ 30% of the voting population.²

The burden of additional paperwork and bureaucratic red tape will fall overwhelmingly on women who are balancing careers, families, and other responsibilities – making voting exceptionally difficult. We have already seen this play out in recent elections. In New Hampshire married women experienced profound difficulty trying to vote, with some women having to make three trips to get the right documents and some not being able to vote at all, because of the new requirement to bring proof of citizenship to vote.³ **Expecting millions of women to navigate yet another complex process just to exercise their right to vote is an unnecessary barrier that will disenfranchise millions of women voters.**

Some may argue that women could simply use a U.S. passport to resolve this issue. More than half of Americans do not have a valid U.S. passport⁴ and a new passport currently costs \$165 while renewals cost \$130. Obtaining a passport also often requires taking time off of work, traveling to an acceptance facility, and providing additional documentation—none of which should be prerequisites for exercising the right to vote.

Your actions will make voting too expensive and burdensome: an illegal poll tax that disproportionately targets women. Women will pay the price for your Executive Order – covering costs for documents that show their birthplace, costs to travel in person for a passport or birth certificate, and costs to travel just to register to vote. On top of that, your Executive Order will cost women their time – time off work, time to drive, and time away from their families, just to register to vote. Registering to vote should not be this difficult or cost this much. Women can't afford this Executive Order.

The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. No American should be penalized for making a legal and overwhelmingly common decision to change their surname. **We demand you revoke the Executive Order and work to make sure voting is accessible to all, especially women.**

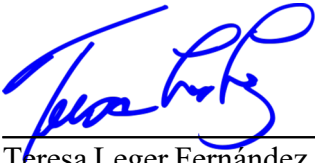
Sincerely,

1 Bedekovics, G., & Bryant, S. (2025, January 31). *The SAVE Act would disenfranchise millions of citizens*. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-save-act-would-disenfranchise-millions-of-citizens/>


2 Smith, J. (2024, November 15). *How many people didn't vote in the 2024 election?* U.S. News & World Report. <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2024-11-15/how-many-people-didnt-vote-in-the-2024-election>

3 Bookman, T., & Rogers, J. (2025, March 11). *NH's new ID requirements send some would-be voters home to grab passports, birth certificates*. New Hampshire Public Radio. <https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2025-03-11/nhs-new-id-requirements-send-some-would-be-voters-home-to-grab-passports-birth-certificates>

4 U.S. Department of State. (2023, December 18). *Return to pre-pandemic passport processing times*. <https://2021-2025.state.gov/return-to-pre-pandemic-passport-processing-times/>



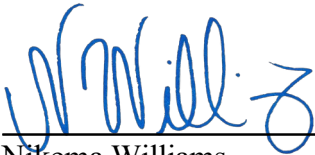
Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



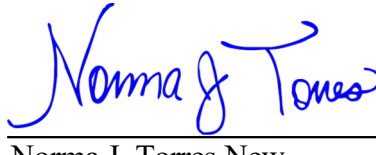
Sydney Kamlager Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



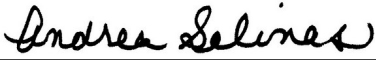
Norma J. Torres New
Democrat Coalition Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



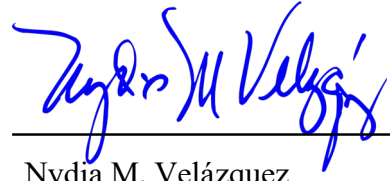
LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Joyce Beatty
National Leaders & Advocacy
Organizations Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



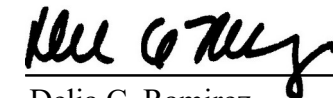
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress