



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SILICON VALLEY

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Vote NO on SAVE Act 2.0 [H.R.7296]

Dear Senator Padilla,

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley (“APABA Silicon Valley”) strongly opposes the “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act” and all new iterations of the act [H.R.7296]. As you are aware, the SAVE Act would require otherwise eligible voters to present documentary proof of United States citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. Existing laws already prohibit non-citizens from voting in federal elections, and data shows that non-citizen voting is exceedingly rare. Instead, proposed legislation such as the SAVE Act in all its forms would disenfranchise eligible voters and disproportionately affect Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

The SAVE Act imposes onerous requirements for proving U.S. citizenship that many Americans would have great difficulty satisfying. For example, according to the U.S. Department of State, more than half of Americans do not hold a U.S. passport. Over 20 million people lack ready access to documents to prove their citizenship. Additionally, the SAVE ACT has many requirements for state-issued birth certificates. And even if those birth certificates were acceptable, millions of women, including hundreds of thousands of Asian American women, who choose to change their surnames upon marriage would not be able to use their birth certificates as proof of citizenship. Clarifying documents, like marriage certificates or judgments of divorce, would impose even further paperwork barriers.

The SAVE Act would cause disproportionate harm to eligible Asian American voters. Asian Americans have been the fastest-growing group of eligible voters in the United States. More than half of Asian Americans are born outside of the United States. Nearly 32% of the Asian American community has limited English proficiency. The Asian American population is comprised of over 50 different ethnicities who speak over 100 different languages. If passed, the documentation requirement would place an administrative and unnecessary burden on eligible Asian Americans, who already face barriers, when the existing laws prohibit non-citizens from voting and the existing federal form requires affirmation of citizenship. Notably, 64% of Asian American adults are naturalized U.S. citizens, a higher percentage than other immigrant groups. Naturalized Asian American voters and other naturalized citizens who are not in possession of their naturalization certificates (either because they were lost, damaged, or stolen) may be prevented from voting, given the length of time and cost required to obtain a replacement certificate from the federal immigration authorities. The current cost to replace a lost, stolen, or damaged certificate of naturalization is over \$500.



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SILICON VALLEY

Requiring a passport or other documentation that many American citizens do not possess or lack access to will not enhance election integrity. Instead, it would block millions of eligible American citizens from registering to vote—including Asian Americans. We respectfully urge that you vote “no” on the SAVE Act and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

Jaya K. Reddy

President of Board of Directors
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of
Silicon Valley



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SILICON VALLEY

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
Hart Senate Office Building #112
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Vote NO on SAVE Act 2.0 [H.R.7296]

Dear Senator Schiff,

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley (“APABA Silicon Valley”) strongly opposes the “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act” and all new iterations of the act [H.R.7296]. As you are aware, the SAVE Act would require otherwise eligible voters to present documentary proof of United States citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. Existing laws already prohibit non-citizens from voting in federal elections, and data shows that non-citizen voting is exceedingly rare. Instead, proposed legislation such as the SAVE Act in all its forms would disenfranchise eligible voters and disproportionately affect Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

The SAVE Act imposes onerous requirements for proving U.S. citizenship that many Americans would have great difficulty satisfying. For example, according to the U.S. Department of State, more than half of Americans do not hold a U.S. passport. Over 20 million people lack ready access to documents to prove their citizenship. Additionally, the SAVE ACT has many requirements for state-issued birth certificates. And even if those birth certificates were acceptable, millions of women, including hundreds of thousands of Asian American women, who choose to change their surnames upon marriage would not be able to use their birth certificates as proof of citizenship. Clarifying documents, like marriage certificates or judgments of divorce, would impose even further paperwork barriers.

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