



March 6, 2025

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 100,000 members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), we urge you to **co-sponsorship of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14)** and to **oppose the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R. 22)**. As a long-standing advocate for voting rights, AAUW believes in open and fair elections that are accessible to all voters.

Over the past decade, various state-level voting laws have created new hurdles for certain voters, including older Americans, veterans, and those living in rural communities. While we must remain vigilant in upholding election integrity, it is equally important to ensure that all legally eligible voters have fair and reasonable access to the ballot box.

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14) seeks to restore necessary protections by:

- Enhancing transparency by requiring election officials to announce changes to voting procedures well in advance.
- Ensuring that any changes to voting practices are evaluated to prevent unintended consequences that could limit participation by eligible voters.
- Reinforcing safeguards that maintain election security while ensuring fair access to voting opportunities.

Many Americans—especially seniors, veterans, and those in rural areas—rely on flexible voting options such as early voting and mail-in ballots. Restrictive policies such as unnecessary voter ID mandates and polling place reductions disproportionately impact those who have served our country, those with disabilities, and those who live in areas with fewer government services. Ensuring their access to the ballot is a matter of fairness and respect.

The SAVE Act (H.R. 22), while intentioned to prevent voter fraud, would place undue burdens on millions of U.S. citizens who may not have immediate access to required documents like passports or birth certificates. Up to 18% of voters over the age of 65 do not possess a current government-issued photo ID, often because they no longer drive. Many older Americans and rural residents have difficulty obtaining these documents, and the risk of disenfranchisement outweighs any theoretical benefit.

Additionally, this bill could have a particularly harmful impact on married women who have changed their names due to marriage or divorce. Approximately 48% of voting-age women with ready access to their U.S. birth certificates have a birth certificate that does not reflect their current name. Many women face bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining updated identification documents, which could prevent them from registering to vote or updating their voter registration in a timely manner. Rather than imposing additional bureaucratic hurdles, we should focus on bipartisan efforts to ensure secure and efficient voter registration processes.



Election security and accessibility must go hand in hand. Congress has the responsibility to implement policies that strengthen our electoral system without placing undue hardships on eligible voters. **Supporting the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14) will help ensure that all American citizens can participate in elections while maintaining trust in our democratic process.**

Co-sponsorship associated with this issue may be scored in the AAUW Action Fund *Congressional Voting Record* for the 119th Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-728-3300 or [kissellm@aauw.org](mailto:kissellm@aauw.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Meghan Kissell, MSW  
Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy