

PROMOTING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS ACT OF 2023

JULY 8, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. STEIL, from the Committee on House Administration,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 6493]

The Committee on House Administration, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6493) to limit the involvement of Federal agencies in voter registration activities, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment (stated in terms of the page and line numbers of the introduced bill) is as follows:

Page 1, line 4, strike “Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023” and insert “Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act of 2023”.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 6493, the Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act of 2023, introduced by Representative Harriet M. Hageman (WY–At Large) and co-sponsored by Representatives Randy Weber, Sr. (TX–14) and Claudia Tenney (NY–24), repeals President Biden’s “Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting” (Exec. Order No. 14019), and requires a report to be submitted to the United States House Committee on House Administration, House Committee on Judiciary, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and Senate Committee on Judiciary of all activities carried out by every executive branch agency under the order. The order also prevents executive branch agency funds made available for salaries or expenses from being used to enter into voter registration or mobilization agreements with nongovernmental organizations and prohibits the Secretary of Education from entering into agreements with institutions of higher education that involve registering or mobilizing voters on or off the campus of the institution. President Biden’s executive order rests on questionable legal authority and this legislation would repeal the order and prevent the executive branch from engaging in the same or similar conduct.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Article I, Section 4 of the United States Constitution¹ (“the Elections Clause”) explains that the States have the primary authority over election administration, the “times, places, and manner of holding elections,” which includes voter registration. Conversely, the Constitution grants the Congress a purely secondary role² to alter or create election laws only in the extreme cases of invasion, legislative neglect, or obstinate refusal to pass election laws. As do other aspects of our federal system, this division of sovereignty continues to serve to protect one of Americans’ most precious freedoms, the right to vote.³

The National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993 “to establish procedures that will increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for Federal office; . . . protect the integrity of the electoral process; and . . . ensure that accurate and current voter reg-

¹ U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1 (“[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations . . .”).

² Although the text of the Elections Clause, read literally and without context, might suggest Congress has unlimited authority in this space, an examination of an examination of history, precedent, the Framers’ words, debates concerning ratification, the Supreme Court, and the Constitution itself provide that this is *not* the case. See Report: The Elections Clause: States’ Primary Constitutional Authority Over Elections, Comm. on H. Admin. (Republicans) (Aug. 12, 2021), https://republicanscha.house.gov/sites/republicans.cha.house.gov/files/documents/Report_The%20Elections%20Clause_States%20Primary%20Constitutional%20Authority%20over%20Elections%20%28Aug%202021%29.pdf.

³ *Id.*

istration rolls are maintained.”⁴ The legislation is commonly referred to as the “motor voter” law because it requires States to provide individuals with voter registration materials when they apply for a driver’s license.⁵

The NVRA requires States to designate certain public places as voter registration agencies where the State provides voter registration materials to individuals.⁶ States are required to designate “all offices in the State that provide public assistance; and all offices in the State that provide State-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities” as voter registration agencies.⁷ States must also designate other public places controlled by the State or local government as voter registration agencies, but have a choice between libraries, schools, offices of city and county clerks, fishing and hunting license bureaus, government revenue offices, unemployment compensation offices, as well as federal and nongovernmental offices if those offices agree.⁸

At the voter registration agency, there must be an official tasked with helping and providing individuals with voter registration materials. Under the NVRA, these individuals are prohibited from seeking to influence an applicant’s party registration, displaying any political party preferences, making any statement or taking an action with the purpose or effect of discouraging the applicant from registering to vote or to leading the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits.⁹

Following the passage of the NVRA, President Clinton issued an executive order, Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993¹⁰ that required executive branch agencies to be designated as voter registration agencies if requested by the State, and the agreement to become a voter registration agency was “consistent with the . . . agency’s . . . legal authority and availability of funds.”¹¹ While the executive order legally remained in effect under Presidents Bush, Obama, and Trump, it does not appear any of those presidents sought to utilize or see the full-scale implementation that President Clinton desired.

On March 7, 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order, “Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting”¹² (“President Biden’s order”). While the directive to federal agencies to “consider ways to expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process” sounds commendable in theory, it reflects a startling expansion of the federal government into election administration, a space for which the Constitution clearly dictates states have primary authority.¹³

Under Section 3 of President Biden’s order, federal agencies—even those with no statutory authorization to do so—are required

⁴ 52 U.S.C. § 20501(b).

⁵ *Id.* at § 20503(a).

⁶ *Id.* at § 20506(a)(1); See also *id.* at § 20502(5) defining voter registration agency as “an office designated under section 20506(a)(1) of this title to perform voter registration activities.”

⁷ *Id.* at § 20506(a)(2)(a)–(b).

⁸ *Id.* at §§ 20506(a)(3)(A)–(B).

⁹ *Id.* at § 20506(a)(5)(A)–(D).

¹⁰ Exec. Order. No. 12926, 59 Fed. Reg. 177 (Sept. 14, 1994).

¹¹ *Id.* at 3(a).

¹² Exec. Order No. 14019, 86 Fed. Reg. 19569 (Mar. 7, 2021).

¹³ U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4, cl. 1; see also *supra* note 2.

to “consider ways to expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process.”¹⁴ As such, the head of each federal agency is required to evaluate how the agency can promote voter registration and voter participation, including, but not limited to, providing voting information in the course of activities or services that directly engage with the public through agency materials, websites, online forms, social media platforms, and providing links on agency websites to State online voter registration systems. In addition, the agency head should attempt to provide access to voter registration services and vote-by-mail ballot applications in the course of activities or services that directly engage with the public, including assisting applicants in completing voter registration and vote-by-mail ballot applications, and soliciting and facilitating nonpartisan third-party organizations and State officials to provide voter registration services on agency premises. Within 200 days of the issuance of the order, each agency head is required to submit to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy a strategic plan outlining ways the agency plans to accomplish these goals.

Under Section 4 of President Biden’s order, each agency is required to be designated as a voter registration agency under the NVRA if requested by the State. If the agency declines the State’s request, a written explanation to the president explaining the decision must be provided. In addition, each agency head is required to evaluate where and how the agency provides services to the public and notify the States in which it provides services that it would like to be designated a voter registration agency.

Under Section 5 of President Biden’s order, the General Services Administration (GSA) is required to take steps to modernize and improve Vote.gov, a website controlled by the federal government that helps individuals with registering to vote in the State they reside. GSA is required to coordinate with the Election Assistance Commission, other federal agencies, and other stakeholders like civil rights and disability rights advocates, Tribal Nations, and nonprofit groups that study best practices for using technology to promote civic engagement. Within 200 days of the issuance of the order, GSA is required to submit to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy a plan that outlines steps to improve Vote.gov.

Under Section 6 of President Biden’s order, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management is required, within 200 days of the order being issued, to coordinate with the heads of certain federal agencies, to provide recommendations to the president for strategies to expand the federal government’s policy of granting employees time off to vote in federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial elections, and better support federal employees that want to volunteer to serve as non-partisan poll workers or non-partisan election observers.

Under Section 9 of President Biden’s order, the Attorney General of the United States is required to establish procedures to provide educational materials related to voter registration, and to facilitate voter registration for individuals in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. These materials will notify individuals leaving Federal Custody of the restrictions on their right to vote under the

¹⁴ Exec. Order No. 14019, 86 Fed. Reg. 19569 (Mar. 7, 2021).

laws of the State where they reside, and if restrictions exist, when their rights may be restored under State law. The Attorney General is also required to work with the United States Marshals Service and the Probation and Pretrial Services Office of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to ensure individuals in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons have access to educational materials related to voter registration and voting, and to facilitate voting by mail. Finally, the Attorney General is required to take steps consistent with applicable law to support formerly incarcerated individuals by helping them obtain an identification that satisfies their state's voter identification law.

President Biden's order gave a 200-day window for several of the newly required plans to be submitted to different White House officials. Because it was issued on March 17, 2021, 200 days after that date was October 3, 2021. Today, more than two years later, none of these reports have been made available to the public.

On March 29, 2022, nine Republican leaders in the House of Representatives sent a letter to Susan Rice, the former Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Shalanda Young, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget raising concerns with the constitutional and legal authority behind the order, the practical aspects of implementing the order, and asking for each agency's plan under section 3.¹⁵ The letter was signed by Representatives Rodney Davis, former Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, Glenn Thompson, former Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, Blaine Luetkemeyer, former Ranking Member of the Committee on Small Business, James Comer, former Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, former Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Virginia Foxx, former Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and Labor, Andy Harris, former Ranking Member on the Committee on Appropriation's Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations, Bryan Steil, former Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Elections, and Steve Womack, former Ranking Member on the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations.

On June 15, 2022, the same nine Republican leaders in the House of Representatives, along with several others, sent letters substantively similar to the March 29, 2022, correspondence to several executive branch agencies. As such, letters from the members serving on the committees of jurisdiction were sent to the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Labor, National Labor Relations Board, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, General Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. En-

¹⁵ Nine House Republican Committee Leaders Raise Concerns on Biden Administration Directing Federal Agencies to Engage in Voting Access & Registration Activities, U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Mar. 29, 2022), <https://oversight.house.gov/release/nine-house-republican-committee-leaders-raise-concerns-on-biden-administration-directing-federal-agencies-to-engage-in-voting-access-registration-activities/>.

vironmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.¹⁶

In the 117th Congress, two bills were introduced in the House of Representatives that would have repealed or strictly limited President Biden’s order. First, former Representative Ted Budd introduced H.R. 8461, the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act,¹⁷ which would have prohibited agency funds from being used to enter into agreements with nongovernmental organizations to conduct voter registration or mobilization activities, and prohibited agency funds from being used to implement President Biden’s order until 180 days after the agency submits its section 3 report to the United States House Committee on House Administration, the House Committee on the Judiciary, the United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary or, if the agency did not develop or submit a section 3 report, the date on which the agency head certifies to the congressional committees above that it did not develop or submit a report. In addition, the legislation would have required each agency head to submit to Congress, within 30 days of the bill’s enactment, a report describing the activities the agency carried out under sections 3 and 4 of President Biden’s order. The legislation was cosponsored by two of H.R. 6493’s cosponsors—Representatives Claudia Tenney and Randy Weber, Sr.

Additionally, former Ranking Member on the Committee on House Administration, Representative Rodney Davis (IL–13), introduced H.R. 8528, the American Confidence in Elections Act,¹⁸ in the 117th Congress, which would have repealed all of President Biden’s order except for the provisions of section 4 that allow federal agencies to be designated as voter registration agencies under the NVRA. That legislation featured 43 co-sponsors, including Representative Claudia Tenney.

In the 118th Congress, Representative Bryan Steil (WI–01), introduced H.R. 4563, an updated version of the American Confidence in Elections Act,¹⁹ which continued to include language to repeal the same sections of President Biden’s order as the version of the bill from the 117th Congress. As of publication of this report, the legislation has 127 co-sponsors, including Representative Tenney. Representative Claudia Tenney also re-introduced H.R. 4500, the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act, which would achieve similar ends.²⁰ This legislation is identical to Representative Budd’s Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act that was introduced in the 117th Congress, except that it added a section that would prohibit the Secretary of Education from entering into agreements with institutions of higher education that involve registering or mobilizing voters on or off the campus of the institution.

¹⁶ AGENCY BLITZ: House Republican Committees Demand Answers on Biden Administration’s Voting Executive Order, U.S. House Committee on House Administration (June 15, 2022), <https://cha.house.gov/press-releases?ID=146E357B-A779-4708-819A-BF14B1FACDFE>.

¹⁷ H.R. 8461—117th Congress (2021–2022): Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act, H.R. 8461, 117th Cong. (2022), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8461>.

¹⁸ H.R. 8528—117th Congress (2021–2022): ACE Act, H.R. 8528, 117th Cong. (2022), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8528>.

¹⁹ H.R. 4563—118th Congress (2023–2024): American Confidence in Elections Act, H.R. 4563, 118th Cong. (2023), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4563>.

²⁰ H.R. 4500—118th Congress (2023–2024): Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act, H.R. 4500, 118th Cong. (2023), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4500>.

The language included in H.R. 4563, the American Confidence in Elections Act, with respect to the repeal of President Biden’s executive order, was introduced by Representative Harriet Hageman (WY–At Large) on November 29, 2023, as H.R. 6493, the Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act of 2023.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Representative Harriet Hageman’s (WY–At Large) H.R. 6493, the Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act of 2023,²¹ would repeal President Biden’s order and prohibit agency funds provided for salaries and expenses from being used to enter into agreements with non-governmental organizations to conduct voter registration or mobilization activities. The legislation would also require every federal agency to submit a report detailing activities it took under sections 3 and 4 of President Biden’s order to the United States House Committee on House Administration, the House Committee on Judiciary, the United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Finally, it would prohibit the Secretary of Education from entering into agreements with institutions of higher education that involve registering or mobilizing voters on or off the campus of the institution. While the relevant language of H.R. 6493 and H.R. 4500 is not identical, both approaches achieve similar policy goals and are worthwhile for consideration by the full House.

The American system of governance requires federal actions to comport always with the Constitution and other federal law. According to the Elections Clause,²² States have the primary role in establishing election law and administering elections. To the extent that the Elections Clause contains a federal fail-safe, it is Congress to whom the Constitution delegates that power, not the president. The president’s constitutional role is limited to enforcing enacted legislation passed by Congress; therefore, the president must exercise great restraint when attempting to act on election law. When Congress believes that the president has taken an action that exceeds his statutory and constitutional authority, Congress has its own constitutional responsibility to respond.

The Committee on House Administration holds sincerely that every eligible American who wants to register to vote should be afforded the opportunity to do so, and the Committee encourages all eligible Americans to exercise their fundamental right to vote according to their conscience.

However, President Biden’s order goes beyond the power of the president and the statutory authority given to federal agencies by requiring the use of taxpayer funds authorized and appropriated for other purposes to assist individuals with registering to vote or casting a ballot, expanding the use of Vote.gov and suggesting agencies add a link to it on their websites, and proposing ways to increase federally funded government employee participation in the voting process.²³ President Biden’s order expands the reach of fed-

²¹ H.R. 6493—118th Congress (2023–2024): Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023, H.R. 6493, 118th Cong. (2023), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6493>.

²² U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

²³ Exec. Order No. 14019, 86 Fed. Reg. 19569 (Mar. 7, 2021).

eral agencies into voter registration activities, which is not their proper statutory role.

Federal agencies exist to address discrete problems. Each agency is tasked by Congress to focus on a limited set of issues in order to develop expertise and best serve the public. Under President Biden's order, when people seek help from a federal agency for requests such as receiving nutrition assistance or verifying their veteran health benefits, they might be asked whether they are registered to vote, or how the agency can help them register to vote. This means these agencies will be spreading their finite resources even further, drawing attention away from their core functions. This is also an expansion of federal agencies beyond their statutorily designated tasks. The Department of Labor and the Department of the Interior, for example, have no statutory or logical role in voter administration, yet President Biden's order tasks them to develop new voter registration activities for which they are not appropriately equipped.

It is also telling that in the 20 years that the NVRA has been in effect, President Biden is the first to direct executive branch agencies in this way. While President Clinton's executive order instructed agencies to be designated as voter registration agencies if the State requested *and* if it was consistent with the agency's funds and legal authority, President Biden's order does *not* contain similar limiting language. In fact, President Biden's order ensures that federal agencies spend time and taxpayer funded resources assisting with voter registration regardless of their designation as a voter registration agency under the NVRA, their statutory authorization, or the purpose of the funds appropriated for that agency's work. Indeed, the fact that no federal agency nor the White House has explained the legal authority that underpins this executive order might not be by mistake.

On March 23, 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services sent four letters to state agencies encouraging them to provide local program operators with promotional materials, including voter registration information.²⁴ While the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") letter reiterates existing responsibilities under the National Voter Registration Act, the Department's direction that "the cost of providing voter registration services, including application processes and training for staff, are allowable SNAP administrative expenses and are reimbursed at the 50 percent level" is legally questionable.²⁵ Using the nation's multi-billion-dollar domestic nutrition program to implement President Joe Biden's voter registration scheme is not only a cause for concern but one that necessitates action.

Another concern with respect to President Biden's order is that Americans who are not registered to vote, do not vote, or who voted for someone other than the president in office at that time could be concerned the agency may retaliate or refuse them assistance on the basis of their choices at the ballot box or decision not to vote. Thus, they may avoid reaching out to the agency, failing to get assistance. Federal agencies collect a dearth of personal information

²⁴ Promoting Access to Voting through the Child Nutrition Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Mar. 23, 2022), <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/promoting-voting-access>.

²⁵ *Id.*

on people who come to them for assistance or are otherwise required to file forms and have a history of using this information against political adversaries of whichever party holds the White House.²⁶ It would not be unreasonable for a citizen to be concerned about the relation between President Biden’s new effort to expand voter registration activities and the routine collection of personal information by federal agencies.

Instead of propping up new federal programs to register voters, the federal government should look to the agency that is already tasked with assisting voter registration efforts, the Election Assistance Commission (“EAC”). As the only federal agency statutorily intended to assist in the election administration space,²⁷ the EAC is well-equipped to support states, counties, and municipalities in their voter registration efforts. Made up of election experts with decades of experience,²⁸ the EAC already works with states to develop and fund voter education. The EAC also serves as the custodian of the National Mail Voter Registration Form and works with states to include to state-specific instructions.²⁹ With an agency as robustly prepared to assist in voter registration information already in existence, there is no need to expend federal funds and resources for other, less-qualified federal agencies to enter the election administration space.

COMMITTEE ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL

On November 29, 2023, Representative Harriet Hageman (WY–At Large), joined by Representatives Randy Weber, Sr. (TX–14) and Claudia Tenney (NY–24), introduced H.R. 6493, the Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act 2023. The bill was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Oversight and Accountability, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Education and the Workforce.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6)(A) of House rule XIII, in the 118th Congress, the Committee held two full committee hearings and one subcommittee hearing to develop H.R. 6493.

1. On April 27, 2023, the Committee held a full committee hearing titled, “American Confidence in Elections: State Tools to Promote Voter Confidence.” The hearing focused on Title I of H.R. 4563, the American Confidence in Elections Act, what tools States need to boost voter integrity and strengthen voter confidence, and how the federal government can provide States with access to the information needed to accomplish these

²⁶ Peter Overby, *IRS Apologizes for Aggressive Scrutiny of Conservative Groups*, NPR (Oct. 27, 2017), <https://www.npr.org/2017/10/27/560308997/irs-apologizes-for-aggressive-scrutiny-of-conservative-groups>.

²⁷ 52 U.S.C. § 20922.

²⁸ *Id.* at §§ 20923–20924.

²⁹ UNITED STATES ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION, *National Mail Voter Registration Form* | *U.S. Election Assistance Commission*, UNITED STATES ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (Oct. 11, 2023), <https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>.

goals. Witnesses included: The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli, Chairman, Election Transparency Initiative, The Honorable Hans von Spakovsky, Manager, Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow, on behalf of The Heritage Foundation, The Honorable Mac Warner, West Virginia Secretary of State, The Honorable Donald Palmer, Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and Mr. Joseph Paul Gloria, Chief Executive Officer for Operations, Election Center.³⁰

2. On May 24, 2023, the Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Elections held a subcommittee hearing titled, “American Confidence in Elections: Ensuring Every Eligible American has the Opportunity to Vote—and for their Vote to Count According to Law.” The hearing highlighted the strong election integrity reforms that have passed throughout several States and how important it is for States to learn from other States’ successes in the election arena. Witnesses included: Mr. Joseph Burns, Lawyer, Law Office of Joseph T. Burns, PLLC, Ms. Lisa Dixon, Executive Director, Lawyers Democracy Fund, Mr. Thor Hearne Founding Partner, True North Law, LLC, The Honorable Scot Turner, Executive Director, Eternal Vigilance Action Inc., and Mr. Deuel Ross, Deputy Director of Litigation, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.³¹

3. On July 10, 2023, the Committee held a full committee field hearing titled, “American Confidence in Elections: The Path to Election Integrity Across America.” The hearing outlined the newly introduced H.R. 4563, the American Confidence in Elections Act, and highlighted the successes of S.B. 202, 2021. Witnesses included: The Honorable Hans von Spakovsky, Manager, Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow, The Heritage Foundation, Dr. Kathleen Ruth, Former Vice Chair, Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections, Mrs. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin, Elections Consultant, City of Milton, and Ms. Cathy Woolard, Chair, Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections.³²

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On November 30, 2023, the U.S. House Committee on House Administration met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 6493, Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act of 2023, reported favorably to the House of Representatives, as amended, by a vote of five to four, a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE VOTES

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the following votes occurred during the Committee’s consideration of H.R. 6493:

1. Vote on an amendment to H.R. 6493, offered by Mrs. Bice, passed by voice vote.

³⁰*American Confidence in Elections: State Tools to Promote Voter Confidence: Hearing Before the H. Comm. On Admin., 118th Cong. (2023).*

³¹*American Confidence in Elections: Ensuring Every Eligible American has the Opportunity to Vote—and for their Vote to Count According to Law: Hearing Before the Subcomm. On Elections of the H. Comm. On Admin., 118th Cong. (2023).*

³²*American Confidence in Elections: The Path to Election Integrity Across America: Hearing Before the H. Comm. On Admin., 118th Cong. (2023).*

2. Vote to report H.R. 6493 favorably, as amended, to the House of Representatives, passed by a record vote of 5 ayes and 4 noes. Ayes: Steil, B., Murphy, G., Bice, S., Carey, M., Lee, L. Noes: Morelle, J., Sewell, T., Torres, N., Kilmer, D.

JIM JORDAN, Ohio
CHAIRMAN

JERROLD D. NADLER, New York
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil:

I write regarding H.R. 6493, the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the *Congressional Record* during consideration of H.R. 6493 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Joe Morelle, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, California
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 275-6371
www.science.house.gov

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil:

I write regarding H.R. 6493, the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023, introduced on November 29, 2023.

H.R. 6493 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is done based on our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and is not a waiver of any future jurisdictional claim over subject matter contained in this bill or in similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the committee report or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of H.R.6493. Finally, I ask that you support the appointment of Science Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
The Honorable Joe Morelle, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

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JIM BANKS, INDIANA
JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
LLOYD SMUCKER, PENNSYLVANIA
BURGESS OWENS, UTAH
BOB GOOD, VIRGINIA
LISA C. MCCLAIN, MICHIGAN
MARY E. MILLER, ILLINOIS
MICHELLE STEEL, CALIFORNIA
RON ESTES, KANSAS
JULIA LETLOW, LOUISIANA
KEVIN KILEY, CALIFORNIA
AARON BEAN, FLORIDA
ERIC BURLISON, MISSOURI
NATHANIEL MORAN, TEXAS
JOHN JAMES, MICHIGAN
LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER, OREGON
BRANDON WILLIAMS, NEW YORK
ERIN HOUGHIN, INDIANA

MINORITY MEMBERS:

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA,
Ranking Member

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FREDERICA S. WILSON, FLORIDA
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MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
ALMA S. ADAMS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK DESAULNIER, CALIFORNIA
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TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ,
NEW MEXICO
KATHY E. MANNING, NORTH CAROLINA
FRANK J. BRUNAN, INDIANA
JAMAAI BOWMAN, NEW YORK

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Steil:

This letter is in regard to the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Education and the Workforce ("Committee") in certain provisions of H.R. 6493, the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023, which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, the Committee is willing to waive the right to sequential referral. By waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 6493 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx
Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman

cc: House Committee on Education and
the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott

Committee on House Administration
Ranking Member Joe Morelle

The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 28, 2024

Hon. Bryan Steil
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.


Dear Chairman Steil,

I am writing to you concerning H.R. 6493, the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 6493 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,



James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight & Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Joe Morelle, Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian
House of Representatives

STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 4, Clause 1—“The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof”³³ This clause, consistent with contemporary thought and context, informs Congress that the primary authority to set election law and to administer federal elections rests with the States and not with Congress.
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—“To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States”³⁴
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”³⁵

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(I) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following opinion and estimate with respect to new budget authority, entitlement authority, and tax expenditures. The Committee believes that there will be no additional costs attributable to H.R. 6493.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, a cost estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such an estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record if it is received by the Committee.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The performance goals and objectives of H.R. 6493 are to repeal President Biden’s Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, which would prohibit executive branch funds made available for agency salaries or expenses from being used to enter into agreements with nongovernmental organizations to conduct voter reg-

³³ U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

³⁴ U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 1.

³⁵ U.S. Const. Art. I, § 8, cl. 18.

istration or voter mobilization activities, ensure that the relevant congressional committees receive reports that summarize the actions of executive branch agencies under the executive order, and prohibit the Secretary of Education from entering into agreements with institutions of higher education that involve registering or mobilizing voters on or off the campus of the institution.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 6493 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

ADVISORY ON EARMARKS

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 6493 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clauses 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such an estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record if it is received by the Committee.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

H.R. 6493 does not establish or authorize any new advisory committees.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

The section provides the short title of the bill, the Safeguarding Electoral Integrity Act of 2023.

Section 2. Federal agency involvement in voter registration activities

Section 2(a) first repeals President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting (Executive Order 14019 (86 Fed. Reg. 13623)) and terminates any contracts that an executive branch agency entered into under sections 3 or 4 of President Biden's order.

Next, section 2(b) prevents any funds made available for the salaries or expenses of an executive branch agency from being used to solicit or enter into an agreement with a nongovernmental organization to conduct any voter registration or voter mobilization activities.

Section 2(c) requires any reports required to be produced under sections 3 and 4 of President Biden's order to be produced, within 30 days of the bill being enacted to the United States House Committee on House Administration, House Committee on Judiciary, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Finally, section 2(d) amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prevent the United States Secretary of Education from entering into agreements with institutions of higher education that involve registering or mobilizing voters on or off the campus of the institution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

* * * * *

TITLE IV—STUDENT ASSISTANCE

* * * * *

PART C—FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS

* * * * *

SEC. 443. GRANTS FOR FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.

(a) AGREEMENTS REQUIRED.—The Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements with institutions of higher education under which the Secretary will make grants to such institutions to assist in the operation of work-study programs as provided in this part.

(b) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall—

(1) provide for the operation by the institution of a program for the part-time employment, including internships, practica, or research assistantships as determined by the Secretary, of its students in work for the institution itself, work in community service or work in the public interest for a Federal, State, or local public agency or private nonprofit organization under an arrangement between the institution and such agency or organization, and such work—

(A) will not result in the displacement of employed workers or impair existing contracts for services;

(B) will be governed by such conditions of employment as will be appropriate and reasonable in light of such factors as type of work performed, geographical region, and proficiency of the employee;

(C) does not involve the construction, operation, or maintenance of so much of any facility as is used or is to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship; [and]

(D) does not involve registering or mobilizing voters on or off the campus of the institution; and

[(D)] (E) will not pay any wage to students employed under this subpart that is less than the current Federal minimum wage as mandated by section 6(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938;

(2) provide that funds granted an institution of higher education, pursuant to this section, may be used only to make payments to students participating in work-study programs, except that—

(A) for fiscal year 2000 and succeeding fiscal years, an institution shall use at least 7 percent of the total amount of funds granted to such institution under this section for such fiscal year to compensate students employed in community service, and shall ensure that not less than 1 tutoring or family literacy project (as described in subsection (d)) is included in meeting the requirement of this subparagraph, except that the Secretary may waive this subparagraph if the Secretary determines that enforcing this subparagraph would cause hardship for students at the institution; and

(B) an institution may use a portion of the sums granted to it to meet administrative expenses in accordance with section 489 of this Act, may use a portion of the sums granted to it to meet the cost of a job location and development program in accordance with section 446 of this part, and may transfer funds in accordance with the provisions of section 488 of this Act;

(3) provide that in the selection of students for employment under such work-study program, only students who demonstrate financial need in accordance with part F and meet the requirements of section 484 will be assisted, except that if the institution's grant under this part is directly or indirectly based in part on the financial need demonstrated by students who are (A) attending the institution on less than a full-time basis, or (B) independent students, a reasonable portion of the grant shall be made available to such students;

(4) provide that for a student employed in a work-study program under this part, at the time income derived from any need-based employment is in excess of the determination of the amount of such student's need by more than \$300, continued employment shall not be subsidized with funds appropriated under this part;

(5) provide that the Federal share of the compensation of students employed in the work-study program in accordance with the agreement shall not exceed 75 percent, except that—

(A) the Federal share may exceed 75 percent, but not exceed 90 percent, if, consistent with regulations of the Secretary—

(i) the student is employed at a nonprofit private organization or a government agency that—

(I) is not a part of, and is not owned, operated, or controlled by, or under common ownership, operation, or control with, the institution;

(II) is selected by the institution on an individual case-by-case basis for such student; and

(III) would otherwise be unable to afford the costs of such employment; and

(ii) not more than 10 percent of the students compensated through the institution's grant under this part during the academic year are employed in positions for which the Federal share exceeds 75 percent; and

(B) the Federal share may exceed 75 percent if the Secretary determines, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Secretary establishing objective criteria for such determinations, that a Federal share in excess of such amounts is required in furtherance of the purpose of this part;

(6) include provisions to make employment under such work-study program reasonably available (to the extent of available funds) to all eligible students in the institution in need thereof;

(7) provide assurances that employment made available from funds under this part will, to the maximum extent practicable, complement and reinforce the educational program or vocational goals of each student receiving assistance under this part;

(8) provide assurances, in the case of each proprietary institution, that students attending the proprietary institution receiving assistance under this part who are employed by the institution may be employed in jobs—

(A) that are only on campus and that—

(i) to the maximum extent practicable, complement and reinforce the education programs or vocational goals of such students; and

(ii) furnish student services that are directly related to the student's education, as determined by the Secretary pursuant to regulations, except that no student shall be employed in any position that would involve the solicitation of other potential students to enroll in the school; or

(B) in community service in accordance with paragraph

(2)(A) of this subsection;

(9) provide assurances that employment made available from funds under this part may be used to support programs for supportive services to students with disabilities;

(10) provide assurances that the institution will inform all eligible students of the opportunity to perform community service, and will consult with local nonprofit, governmental, and community-based organizations to identify such opportunities; and

(11) include such other reasonable provisions as the Secretary shall deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purpose of this part.

(c) PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.—As part of its agreement described in subsection (b), an institution of higher education may, at its option, enter into an additional agreement with the Secretary which shall—

(1) provide for the operation by the institution of a program of part-time employment of its students in work for a private

for-profit organization under an arrangement between the institution and such organization that complies with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(1) and subsection (b)(3);

(2) provide that the institution will use not more than 25 percent of the funds made available to such institution under this part for any fiscal year for the operation of the program described in paragraph (1);

(3) provide that, notwithstanding subsection (b)(5), the Federal share of the compensation of students employed in such program will not exceed 60 percent for academic years 1987–1988 and 1988–1989, 55 percent for academic year 1989–1990, and 50 percent for academic year 1990–1991 and succeeding academic years, and that the non-Federal share of such compensation will be provided by the private for-profit organization in which the student is employed;

(4) provide that jobs under the work study program will be academically relevant, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(5) provide that the for-profit organization will not use funds made available under this part to pay any employee who would otherwise be employed by the organization.

(d) TUTORING AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—

(1) USE OF FUNDS.—In any academic year to which subsection (b)(2)(A) applies, an institution shall ensure that funds granted to such institution under this section are used in accordance with such subsection to compensate (including compensation for time spent in training and travel directly related to tutoring in reading and family literacy activities) students—

(A) employed as reading tutors for children who are preschool age or are in elementary school; or

(B) employed in family literacy projects.

(2) PRIORITY FOR SCHOOLS.—To the extent practicable, an institution shall—

(A) give priority to the employment of students in the provision of tutoring in reading in schools that are participating in a reading reform project that—

(i) is designed to train teachers how to teach reading on the basis of scientifically-based research on reading; and

(ii) is funded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

(B) ensure that any student compensated with the funds described in paragraph (1) who is employed in a school participating in a reading reform project described in subparagraph (A) receives training from the employing school in the instructional practices used by the school.

(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the compensation of work-study students compensated under this subsection may exceed 75 percent.

(e) CIVIC EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds granted to an institution under this section may be used to compensate (including compensation for time spent in training and travel directly related to civic education and participation activities) students employed in projects that—

- (A) teach civics in schools;
 - (B) raise awareness of government functions or resources; or
 - (C) increase civic participation.
- (2) PRIORITY FOR SCHOOLS.—To the extent practicable, an institution shall—
- (A) give priority to the employment of students participating in projects that educate or train the public about evacuation, emergency response, and injury prevention strategies relating to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other emergency situations; and
 - (B) ensure that any student compensated with the funds described in paragraph (1) receives appropriate training to carry out the educational services required.
- (3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the compensation of work-study students compensated under this subsection may exceed 75 percent.

* * * * *

DISSENTING VIEWS

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 6493

H.R. 6493 seeks to repeal the Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting signed by President Biden,¹ which promotes voter participation by directing federal agencies to “consider ways to expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process.”² It is incomprehensible what Republicans find objectionable about that.

The Executive Order has a simple purpose: directing existing federal resources, like department websites or agency social media accounts, to encourage more Americans to participate in our democracy. In doing so, it makes voter registration more accessible, helps to educate voters on important election related information, and improves voter confidence and election security. And by using existing resources, the implementation of this executive order does not cost the taxpayer an additional penny.

As the purpose is stated in the order itself, “[i]t is our duty to ensure that registering to vote and the act of voting be made simple and easy for all those eligible to do so.”³ The executive order seeks to do just that.

Importantly, it helps our service members by directing the Department of Defense (“DOD”) to implement an end-to-end tracking system for military ballots, and “affirmatively offer, on an annual basis, each member of the Armed Forces on active duty the opportunity to register to vote in federal elections, update voter registration, or request an absentee ballot.”⁴ Likewise, it improves access to voter registration, especially for members of historically underserved communities, by directing federal agencies that provide services to the public to work with states to offer voter registration. It increases opportunities for voting and voter education for eligible citizens in federal custody. And it directs a variety of agencies to study the ways in which voting and voter registration can be made more accessible for members of historically underserved communities.

And the Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting has been working.

After President Biden signed the Executive Order, the Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”) sent a survey to over 12 million veterans seeking to understand the veterans’ experience with the voter registration process. The VA also launched a website with nonpartisan voter registration and elections information designed specifically for veterans. The VA also plans to do more in the fu-

¹ Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, Exec. Order No. 14019, 86 C.F.R. 13623 (Mar. 10, 2021).

² *Id.* at 13623.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* at 13625.

ture to make voter registration easier for veterans. It is currently developing pilot programs for VA health facilities to receive and accept designations under the National Voter Registration Act⁵ (“NVRA”) to become voter registration agencies. Why would any member of this Committee—if they support our veterans and support voter registration—oppose this Executive Order?

Other agencies have also seen success in implementing the Executive Order. Crucially, the Department of Interior (“DOI”) has been improving voter registration access for Native Americans who have long been excluded from full democratic participation. Specifically, DOI has accepted voter registration agency designations under the NVRA for the tribal colleges and universities it operates, ensuring that students have regular access to high quality voter registration services. Further, DOI has raised awareness about barriers Native voters face by translating the report of the Interagency Steering Group on Native American Voting Rights, which was commissioned as a part of the Executive Order, into six Native languages, both in writing and by audio.

The Department of the Treasury has likewise been working to engage voters through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (“VITA”) program, which provides tax assistance to low-income Americans nationwide. The Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) has issued guidance making it clear that VITA service providers are permitted to provide voter registration assistance and added information about voter registration to its mandatory trainings. The IRS likewise shared nonpartisan information about the voter registration process with millions of Americans by adding information about voter registration and access to many of the materials distributed through the VITA program.

H.R. 6493 would undo much of the progress the executive order has made, making it harder for Americans to participate in our democracy. For instance, it would make it harder for servicemembers and veterans to register to vote by preventing the DOD and VA from encouraging voter registration and participation, which is a massive disservice to those in uniform. It would likewise dismantle vital programs that materially help Native Americans participate in our democracy.

Committee Democrats oppose H.R. 6493.

JOSEPH D. MORELLE,
Ranking Member.



⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 20506.