

NEW HAMPSHIRE CITY AND TOWN CLERKS' ASSOCIATION (ORGANIZED OCTOBER 19, 1926)

April 7, 2025

Dear Representative Goodlander:

I am writing to you today as the President of the New Hampshire City and Town Clerk's Association (NHCTCA) to urge you to Oppose the Save Act as written. This legislation looks to solve a problem that does not exist. New Hampshire recently enacted a bill that is very similar to the Save Act and it has already disenfranchised voters in New Hampshire from voting in their Town elections. We estimate between 10 and 50% of voters will be turned away from voting on election day.

This will absolutely disenfranchise voters around the country. Some voters do not have their birth certificates readily available and then if they don't have it they will have to purchase one. For many individuals, the cost alone could disenfranchise them from voting. Those that are married and have changed their names will have to provide marriage certificates. Those that have been married multiple times will have to show all marriage certificates to show all name changes. This as well will disenfranchise many voters.

Other parts of this bill that are concerning is the private right of action allowing individuals to sue if they feel the law is not properly enforced. Our elections are run by elected officials and very dedicated volunteers and this would be concerning to many that this can happen.

This bill also would establish criminal penalties for election officials who mistakenly register an applicant to vote who has not presented proof of citizenship. This could stop many very qualified individuals from running for office for fear of making a mistake. It could also stop many from volunteering to work elections.

Please vote no on the Save Act!

Regards,

Joan Dargie, President New Hampshire City and Town Clerks Association