**SAVE ACT Opinion Piece Template**

**Opinion Piece Tips**

* Before you start writing, check the word count your local paper asks for, most op-eds should land between 500 and 750 words.
* A good opinion piece has a clear flow: open with an introduction that sets up the issue, follow with two paragraphs that explain the problem and back it up with data or credible sources, add a “to be sure” paragraph to address other perspectives or clarify any confusion, and close with a strong call to action.
* Think of the template below as a helpful outline, but make it your own. Bring in your voice, your experience, and make it feel real and local to your community.
* Most importantly: don't just copy and paste the template. Readers (and editors) connect best when it feels genuine. Use the message as your anchor, but tell the story in a way that sounds like you.
* The newspaper will change your title. You have no control over this, however you can send a suggested title.]

You have something important to say, and this is your chance to make people listen.

 **[Title Placeholder: Example — Don’t Let Congress Take Away Our Right to Vote]**

By [Your Name]

**[Write a short, simple introduction, that speaks directly to the issue. You could also write a personal anecdote, or tell the story of a person who is impacted by the SAVE Act (with their permission) as an opening.]**
Our right to vote is under attack. Not from some random threat, but from a bill moving through Congress right now.

It’s called the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act **[If the paper you’re submitting this piece to has written an article on the SAVE Act, please link to that story, if not link straight to the bill].** If passed, it would force every single eligible American to present specific documents, like a passport or an original birth certificate, every time they register or update their voter registration. Even when they move. Even when they change their name. Even when life throws them a curveball.

Simply put, the SAVE Act will make it harder for everyday Americans to vote.

Millions of citizens don’t have the paperwork the SAVE Act demands. And getting these documents isn’t always simple, it can mean long wait times, hundreds of dollars in fees, or even legal battles, especially if records were lost in a disaster or are out of date.

**[Provide direct examples of the impact on people in your state]** Here in **[insert your location],** the impact would be devastating. We have **[insert number and include a link to the source of the statistic]** voting-age citizens whose right to vote would be placed in jeopardy. Military families who sacrifice so much for our country would be forced to jump through needless hoops every time they move, re-verifying their citizenship at each new address. Survivors of **[insert example from your state of a recent natural disaster ] who** lost everything would now have to fight to replace critical documents just to have their voices heard at the ballot box.

**[For this section: If you or someone you know in your state who has had to go through this process and is willing to allow you to use their story, this is an excellent place to insert that example.]**  Millions of married women, including those in our community, would face barriers because their birth certificates no longer match their legal names. Even families who simply move to a new home would be burdened with the task of proving their citizenship all over again. This law would create confusion, financial barriers, and unnecessary hardship into a process that should be simple, fair, and accessible for all voters.

**[For this section: You must address the opposing argument and explain why it’s flawed]** Some say that the SAVE Act creates a simple verification step to ensure that only eligible voters are cast their ballots. However, the SAVE Act doesn’t solve a real problem, we already have election processes that work. Instead, the SAVE Act creates new problems. It’s a solution in search of a crisis, and the real casualty would be your right to vote.

**[Conclusion]** We’ve seen laws like this before, and courts have struck them down because they make it harder, not easier, for eligible Americans to participate in our democracy.

We should be working to make voting more accessible, not placing more obstacles in front of the people who are already doing everything right.

**[CTA]** If we don’t speak out now and urge our congressional leaders to stop this bill, we risk losing what makes our democracy strong: a government of, by, and for the people.