

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Orice Williams Brown
Acting Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Acting Comptroller Brown:

We write concerning the apparent illegality of the use of official Executive Office of the President (EOP or “White House”) funds to create a dedicated webpage on the official White House website to explicitly “urge” Americans to contact their Senators in support of the *SAVE America Act* (H.R. 7296).¹ We urge the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue a determination quickly as to whether the White House is violating the *Anti-Lobbying Act* through this use of taxpayer funds to influence of Congress in the consideration of this extreme anti-voter bill.²

The White House official website is maintained by the Office of Digital Strategy in coordination with the Office of Communications and other EOP offices. Sometime in the past several weeks, the White House created and launched a public standalone webpage on the official White House website devoted primarily to promoting the lobbying of Congress in favor of the *SAVE America Act*. This bill could disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans by requiring onerous and burdensome proof of citizenship for voter registration and would force all 50 states to provide state voter list data to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), among other provisions.³

Immediately upon scrolling on the landing page graphic, the relevant text states, in all-caps, “ACT NOW” and, after several inaccurate bullet points that grossly mislead the public about the content of the bill, the short page concludes with “URGE YOUR SENATOR TO **PASS** THE SAVE AMERICA ACT” (emphasis in original). Below that explicit call to lobby Senators, the webpage includes an online data visualization tool with the heading “Click or Search the Map Below to Contact Your Senators.” When a visitor clicks on a state, an information box appears with phone numbers and email addresses for two Senators for each state on the map.

This webpage appears to be a prima facie violation of restrictions on the use of

¹ The White House, “SAVE OUR ELECTIONS”, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/saveamerica/>, last visited February 20, 2026, archived version on file with the committee minority staff.

² 18 U.S. Code § 1913.

³ Kevin Morris, Cora Henry. *Millions of Americans Don't Have Documents Proving Their Citizenship Readily Available*. The Brennan Center for Justice (June 11, 2024). <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/millions-americans-dont-have-documents-proving-their-citizenship-readily>

appropriations for explicit appeals to the public to contact Members of Congress to support pending legislation. In this case, this apparently illegal appeal is in favor of a bill that is designed to stoke fears of voter fraud centered on a myth of pervasive voting by noncitizens, could disenfranchise millions of Americans, and would fundamentally alter election administration activities by nationalizing voter list maintenance and forcing the use of a flawed DHS database. The President has also stated that he believes this legislation would enable him to ban mail-in voting as well, a safe and secure voting method used by nearly 30% of American voters in 2024.

The context of the White House's taxpayer-funded call for the public to lobby Congress is also important for GAO to consider. On February 19, 2026, President Trump said that if "Republicans" pass the *SAVE America Act*, "[w]e'll never lose a race. For 50 years, we won't lose a race."⁴ The President has also issued an Executive Order that attempted to impose some of these requirements which has been enjoined in federal court,⁵ stated that Republicans should "takeover" election administration in certain states,⁶ and threatened additional illegal Executive Orders to mandate elements of this bill and other anti-voter policies if the Senate fails to send the bill to his desk.⁷ It is clear that the White House's legislative push is driven by the hope of partisan gain by changing election administration policy and that they are acting without regard to the law in their attempt to rewrite voting rules prior to the 2026 midterm elections.

This request is also timely. The President and his allies are calling for this legislation to be considered in the Senate very soon in the upcoming work period. This legislation has already passed the House of Representatives on an extremely narrow, overwhelmingly party-line vote, and the President and some Senators are publicly calling for even changing Senate rules to ensure passage of this legislation.⁸

The Senate Rules and Administration Committee and the Committee on House Administration have jurisdiction over the legislation at issue. GAO's responsibilities with regards to the oversight of appropriations laws includes providing opinions to Members and Committees of Congress concerning the uses of funds, including the prohibition on lobbying with appropriated money (18 U.S. C. § 1913). Over the years, GAO has addressed similar issues arising within various federal agencies and has consistently stated that clear appeals to the public to contact Members of Congress about pending legislation are the types of public

⁴ "Donald Trump: 'We'll never lose a race in 50 years.' WAAY 31 News (Feb. 19, 2026).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqbYI95hwaA>

⁵ Alexander Shur. *New federal ruling is latest defeat to Trump administration's election agenda*. Vote Beat (Jan. 13, 2026). <https://www.votebeat.org/2026/01/13/trump-ruling-latest-defeat-election-executive-order/>

⁶ The Dan Bongino Show. *I'm Back* (Feb. 2, 2026: 1:39:22) https://rumble.com/v756t38-im-back-ep.-2443-02022026.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp_a

⁷ President Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump) on TruthSocial.com (Aug. 18, 2025).

<https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115049485680941254>

⁸ The Office of Senator "Coach" Tommy Tuberville. "Tuberville urges Senate to pass the SAVE America Act" (Feb. 9, 2026). <https://www.tuberville.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/tuberville-urges-senate-to-pass-the-save-america-act/> ("Luckily, we still have time to get it through the finish line. One way we can do this is to get rid of the outdated 60-vote filibuster.")

communications that are prohibited.⁹ We look forward to a response as soon as possible in this case given the potential timing of the legislation pending before the Senate.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Rules and Administration



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress
Ranking Member
Committee on House
Administration

⁹ *U.S. Department of Agriculture – Anti-Lobbying Provisions*, B-330095, (Jul. 22, 2020).
<https://www.gao.gov/products/b-330095>