



July 10, 2019

Dear House and Senate Leadership,

The undersigned groups believe that government should not be setting speech codes online or undermining free speech. The growth of social media has greatly benefited society, free speech, and the beliefs of people across the political spectrum.

Truly diverse political speech has often been limited by traditional broadcast news or major newspapers. By contrast, social media has empowered an explosion of opinionated speech online, cutting out the filters and injecting users' ideas into mainstream media discussions.

These new venues for conservative speech are made possible by [Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act](#) ("Section 230"). Section 230 has allowed anyone with Internet connectivity to have a voice that can be heard around the world. American entrepreneurs now have easy access to global markets and American consumers have access to an almost limitless choice of goods in the palm of their hands.

Section 230 [works](#) by "providing limited immunity for online platforms that give users an opportunity to disseminate their material." The law enhances free speech, and [contributes](#) \$44 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Section 230 strikes a careful balance: the law holds individuals, not the tools they use, responsible for their actions online while demanding online intermediaries comply with all federal laws.

Unfortunately, politicians in Congress - including [House Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#) and [Senator Josh Hawley](#) - have suggested undermining or completely repealing Section 230. Content moderation by large tech firms is far from perfect but weakening or removing Section 230 would strengthen the hand of government to silence speech it dislikes.

Politicians [are demanding](#) that social media platforms remove content that is unflattering to them - muting critiques of government, and silencing grassroots political activism.

Key Congressional figures have said they would consider revising Section 230, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.), Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), and Sen. Josh

Hawley (R-Mo.). Doing so would limit free speech in ways not seen since the repeal of the FCC's [Fairness Doctrine](#), a policy that squelched a broadcaster's ability to express an opinion under government oversight.

We ask you to protect online speech and American jobs from this attack by well-meaning but ultimately mistaken members of Congress. Congress must defend Section 230. Without the law's protections, free speech and American entrepreneurialism would be irreparably harmed.

Billy Easley
Senior Policy Analyst
Americans for Prosperity

Norm Singleton
President
Campaign For Liberty

Andrew Quinlan
President
Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Patrick Hedger
Tech Research Fellow
Competitive Enterprise Institute

Jason Pye
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
FreedomWorks

Wayne Brough
President
Innovation Defense Foundation

Zach Graves
Policy Director
Lincoln Network

Charles Sauer
President
Market Institute

Steve DelBianco
President
NetChoice

Pete Sepp
President
National Tax Payers Union Foundation

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Judson Phillips
President
Tea Party Nation

Eric Peterson
Director of Technology and Innovation
The Pelican Center

Casey Given
Executive Director
Young Voices