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HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4313

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We write to you regarding our concerns for the recent censorship tactics that have been utilized by the largest and most dominant companies in the information technology industry of the United States, namely Amazon, Apple, Google, Facebook, Twitter, and Microsoft. Specifically, these big tech conglomerates have utilized their power monopoly to silence conservative voices across America, while allowing radical liberal influencers and dangerous authoritarian regimes to remain active.

As you know, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution restricts the government from making laws which abridge the freedom of speech – the free and public expression of opinions without censorship, interference, and restraint. This right has also been applied to limit the ability of private businesses and individuals from restricting the speech of others, especially if those businesses have monopolized their platforms. Despite these protections, social media companies have continuously suspended millions of conservative accounts, effectively utilizing their monopolies to silence and nullify the First Amendment rights of Americans with these ideological views.

Further complicating this process, the social-media giants' application of their own standards appears to be rapidly changing and inconsistent. While these companies claim that they have used these measures to ensure that those blocked "cannot use their platform to incite violence," they have not taken the same swift and deliberative action when foreign authoritarian regimes, radical terrorist groups, and progressive celebrities have used their platforms for that purpose. For instance, Twitter allowed the account for the Chinese Embassy in the U.S. to operate for weeks after they tweeted support for the elimination of the Uyghur population. Additionally, Twitter refused to suspend the accounts for Antifa, a group which consistently utilizes violent means to suppress free speech, and celebrities like Colin Kaepernick, who has tweeted advocacy for a non-peaceful and violent revolution.

These types of socialist-era free speech suppression tactics are irreconcilable with individual liberties guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Furthermore, the arbitrary nature of these suspensions, bans, and internal rules have proven that, for all intents and purposes, these companies can dangerously operate and strike down decisions on a whim. As such, we urge that you bring forth legislation which would better regulate these social media

giants, ensure the protection of First Amendment rights, and increase transparency for customers and users of social media platforms.

Thank you,



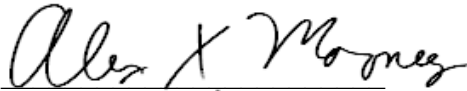
Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



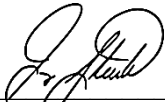
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



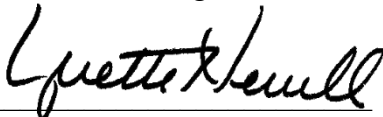
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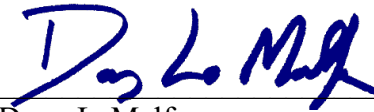
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



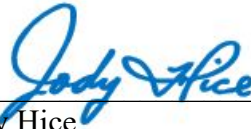
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