



AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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July 20, 2023

U.S. Congress
Washington, DC 20515

To the Members of Congress:

Please cosponsor the Free Speech Protection Act, by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) which would end the weaponization of the federal government including censorship uncovered over the past six years.

The roots of this weaponization actually predate the current administration, and this comprehensive legislation carefully defines the federal government role and provides accountability for violating the right to dissent that is foundational to America's very DNA.

Federal judge Terry Doughty wrote in his decision ¹ barring a number of Biden administration officials and agencies from communicating censorship requests to social media companies, "If the allegations made by Plaintiffs are true, the present case arguably involves the most massive attack against free speech in United States' history."

But Judge Doughty's ruling was not shocking to those who have been subjected to social media censorship. What was shocking is how long it has taken for this type of First Amendment affirming ruling to be made. What has been unbelievable is the brazen willingness of those who have sworn to uphold the Constitution to rip the First Amendment to shreds for political gain.

In our estimation, the Paul-Jordan Free Speech Protection Act is the most important bill introduced in Congress this year and perhaps in the past decade as it puts legal stop signs up against federal government civil rights abuses and creates a right of action against those who suffer under those abuses.

¹ https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/missouri-v-biden-ruling.pdf?sfvrsn=dd807c2_2

Congress' job under the Constitution is to hold the Executive Branch in check. Our Founders recognized that the best way to stop the abuse of power is to diffuse it into many hands. Your cosponsorship and active support of this seminal piece of legislation is essential to ending abuses which should concern those on both the left and right.

This legislation's far-reaching impact recognizes that the temptation to use the federal government to shout and shut down your political opposition is strong.

For example, Robert Kennedy, Jr., who now testifies and argues against censorship, has as recently as 2014 used his influence and power to urge the targeting and destruction of both corporations and private nonprofit organizations like the Competitive Enterprise Institute, over their opposition to his position on climate change.²

And in the past administration, there were concerns regularly voiced about the potential for abuse of power.

It is important that every Senator and Representative recognize that it is in no one's political, philosophical or moral interests to fail to support and pass this legislation which reestablishes guardrails which have been lowered, in many cases, after warnings by civil libertarians in both parties.

It is time for every member of Congress on both the right and the left to join together in support of these sweeping reforms to ensure that this current threat to our basic liberties is pulled out root and branch.

Please cosponsor the Paul-Jordan Free Speech Protection Act today. Remember, supporting the freedom of speech is being on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Manning". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard Manning
President
Americans for Limited Government

² https://www.huffpost.com/entry/jailing-climate-deniers_b_5912596