



July 16, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman  
The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Ranking Member  
House of Representatives Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members,

Over the past several decades, the internet has grown to become a pivotal part of our everyday lives. Everything from applying to jobs to paying our bills has migrated online. Much of our daily communication, expressions of thought, and exchanging of ideas is now done online and social media websites like Facebook and Twitter have been a driving force in Americans adopting this new way of communicating.

These Silicon Valley giants are the new town squares in America, the places where neighbors and friends gather to discuss life updates and events affecting the world at large. That is why it is so alarming that social media companies continually display a clear and consistent bias against conservative points of view.

Freedom of speech is an essential cornerstone of American democracy and it is being threatened on a daily basis by companies who want to impose their own political world view on their users. Ahead of tomorrow's hearing on the content filtration practices of Twitter, Facebook, and Google, I urge you to review some of the egregious examples of censorship by these companies on their platforms.

Several examples of this blatant censorship of content are included below. Please visit [FreeOurInternet.org](http://FreeOurInternet.org) for dozens more.

- 4/9/18 – Facebook [blocks](#) notifications of new posts to followers of Conservative internet pundits Diamond and Silk, citing the duo's "content and brand" as "unsafe to the community."
- 11/2/17 – The president's Twitter handle, @realDonaldTrump, is [deactivated](#) for 11 minutes.
- 10/31/17 – During a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee into Russian activity in the 2016 election, Twitter [admits](#) to blocking anti-Hillary Clinton tweets.
- 9/9/17 – A pro-Trump YouTube star has her song "Make America Great Again" [taken down](#) from YouTube. The company refuses to comment on this specific case.
- 8/17/17 – Google [blocks](#) free speech social network Gab from the Google Play Store citing violations of the company's hate speech policy.
- 4/17/17 – Google admits to [censoring InfoWars](#). Claims it will stop.
- 3/9/17 – Twitter [suspends account](#) of conservative YouTuber Hunter Avallone. No reason given.



- 11/16/16 – Google and Facebook [pledge to defund](#) conservative news sites as “fake news” by denying them access to the companies’ ad networks.
- 7/27/16 – Google [excludes Donald Trump](#) from “presidential candidates” search.
- 7/24/16 – Facebook [blocks all Wikileaks links](#) after DNC emails are released.
- 6/20/16 – Facebook-owned Instagram [censors conservative comedy group](#); offers no reason.
- 6/6/16 – Pro-Trump Reddit community [alleges](#) that Reddit Admins are censoring discussion of censorship.
- 2/20/16 – Conservative blogger Stacy McCain [banned by Twitter](#). No reason given.
- 1/9/16 – Twitter “[unverifies](#)” official account of Breitbart tech editor.
- 1/1/16 – Facebook [takes down picture](#) of 2012 Donald Trump campaign button from “Wake Up America” page for violating community standards for nudity, even though the picture contained no nudity whatsoever.
- 3/2/15 – Facebook [locks account](#) of 12-year-old African American boy after releasing video critical of President Obama.
- 7/22/13 – Facebook [blocks Kirk Cameron](#) and his fans from promoting his upcoming Christian-themed movie “Unstoppable.” Facebook later relents, blaming the censorship on a “mistake” with their spam filter.
- 5/29/13 – Facebook [blocks Fox News commentator](#) Todd Starnes for “violating community standards” for his post supporting guns, Chick-fil-A, Jesus.
- 5/13/12 – Google [bans conservative blog](#) The New York Conservative, hosted on Google Blogger for opining on the trial of terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.
- 4/29/12 – Leftists allegedly target the Twitter account of Dana Loesch’s husband Chris Loesch, resulting in Twitter [banning his account](#) on three different occasions.

It is clear that Silicon Valley companies are not trustworthy self-regulators; their repeated offenses warrant a proper response from Congress. It is time to hold these companies accountable.

Sincerely,

Christie-Lee McNally  
Executive Director  
Free Our Internet