

- Chair Butterfield, Chair Lofgren, Ranking Member Steil, and Ranking Member Davis, thank you for having me here today. This important topic of “truth”—what it means, and who defines it—is personal to me.
- In the 1960s, my parents fled the communist government in Cuba and came to America because they no longer had basic freedoms like freedom of speech. The government had taken them away. So, hearing government officials in this country calling for “truth commissions” and proposing anti-free speech ideas is for me both troubling and personal.
- Free speech is the bedrock of our country – Our constitution protects our right to free speech and expression.
- Voters should have access to all information and viewpoints – not the ones solely approved by the left (or the right).
- The idea of a “truth commission” sounds more like it should be coming out of dictatorial regimes like those in Cuba, Venezuela, China, and Russia not from political leaders in the United States.
- The government should not be involved in arbitrating determinations of “truth” or restricting those who disagree with the majority viewpoint.
- Americans – natural born or naturalized – are smart enough to determine for themselves what to read, what to watch, what to listen to, and—most importantly—what to believe.
- That doesn’t mean that there aren’t bad actors spreading bad information meant to deceive. Of course there are.
- It simply means that it is not the job of federal government to be the arbiter of speech and censor viewpoints that may be critical of a particular program or policy advanced by an administration. It is neither the role of government to prevent the dissemination of inconvenient truths.
- The solution, as always, to speech we don’t like, is to speak more effectively and sometimes more loudly, not for the government to silence bad actors or those who dissent or disagree.
- Finally, Spanish language media outlets are not to blame for either party’s successes or failures with the Latino community. For years Hispanics were trending Democrat. Republicans back then would have been wrong to blame Spanish language news and opinion shows for that dynamic. Today we are witnessing a reversal where the community is increasingly supporting Republican candidates. It is a mistake for Democrats to seek scapegoats at Hispanic radio and television stations to explain their political misfortunes. More likely, Latino voters, like many Americans of other races and ethnicities are reacting to high inflation, an increase in violent crimes, long and unnecessary school and business closures during the pandemic, and other factors irritating the national mood.
- I am concerned that my Democratic friends on this committee recently entertained testimony from a former Hialeah, FL mayor and radio host that the FCC—the federal government—should *pre-clear* news stories before they are broadcast on TV or radio, allowing those they deem “true” and prohibiting those they consider “misinformation”.

Hon. Carlos Curbelo  
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- Again, I ask: who gets to determine what is true and what is false? Certainly, the truth can be determined, but that is up to each of us—every American—to examine the facts and to determine for ourselves what is trustworthy and what is not. Not for the government. Thank you.