

Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers
H.Res. 1476 – Misinformation/Media Censorship (Rep. Clyde)
December 14, 2022

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For years now, Big Tech has been flagging, suppressing, and outright banning conservatives on their platforms, simply for not adhering to their liberal agenda. They've denied all of these accusations, of course, including in front of this very committee and now, thanks to the recent Twitter Files, we know they were lying.

Top Twitter executives were shadow banning conservatives despite Jack Dorsey claiming otherwise when before this committee in 2018. There have been similar reports showing the Biden administration has been colluding with Big Tech to shut down speech, especially speech that runs counter to President Biden's agenda.

In March, the Surgeon General stood at the White House podium and urged Big Tech to quote "do more" to silence people online. Fauci, the CDC, and others have used their official government positions to directly ask social media companies to pull down content or even deactivate accounts. At every turn, Energy and Commerce Republicans have condemned these actions and demanded transparency from the administration and Big Tech.

Free speech is foundational to America and our way of life. Free speech has led to ingenuity and innovation in everything from science to art. Free speech has been essential for entrepreneurs succeeding in every industry, including the tech industry. Our country was founded on this.

The founding fathers enshrined the First Amendment to protect against government officials abusing their positions of power and public trust to try to silence the voices of those with whom they disagree.

Free speech should be cherished and preserved. And any attempt by the government to force, coerce or suggest private companies censor people's free speech is incredibly alarming and warrants scrutiny. I am pleased to support this resolution asking for more evidence of these conversations between Big Tech and the administration. I yield back.