

## **Representative Susan Wild Statement for the Record**

A free press is essential to the strength and longevity of American democracy. From the early days of Ben Franklin's printing press in Philadelphia to the modern-day journalists around the country who unearth corruption within communities and governments, the American experiment has been made possible by great reporting, and great reporters seeking truth wherever it lives.

My district is home to dozens of local journalists, and I stand with them and am proud to support them in Congress. But the threats facing journalists grow with each passing day. The rise of a discourse that seeks to demonize reporters and politicize good reporting. The increase in bad actors aiming to pollute our democratic ecosystem with misinformation and sow distrust. And the war on local papers, who are struggling to stay profitable.

These challenges are real, and those of us in positions of power must take them seriously. I want to thank Rep. Cicilline for his leadership on this issue; I'm proud to join him as a cosponsor of the *Journalism Competition and Preservation Act* to tackle it head on. This important legislation will empower small papers and journalists to negotiate with social media companies for a fairer share of profits and establish a temporary safe harbor period for such negotiations.

This is personal to me. My mom spent part of her career as a local journalist and I saw the tremendous impact she was able to make through her work. I encourage this committee to continue to address the plight facing the independent press as real threats to our democracy and champion local papers as a bedrock of our society.