

S 2977

Free Speech Protection Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: May 6, 2008

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (May 6, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2977>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]

Party: Republican • State: PA • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		May 6, 2008
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 25, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 6, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 5814	Related bill	Jun 3, 2008: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property.

Summary (as of May 6, 2008)

Free Speech Protection Act of 2008 - Allows any U.S. person against whom a lawsuit for defamation is brought in a foreign country on the basis of the content of any speech by that person that has been published, uttered, or otherwise disseminated in the United States to bring an action in a U.S. district court against any person who, or entity which, brought the suit, if the speech at issue in the foreign lawsuit does not constitute defamation under U.S. law.

Allows the award of treble damages if it is determined by a preponderance of the evidence that the person or entity bringing the foreign lawsuit intentionally engaged in a scheme to suppress rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution by discouraging publishers or other media from publishing, or by discouraging financial supporters from employing, retaining, or supporting the research, writing, or other speech of an individual.

## Actions Timeline

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- **May 6, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 6, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3793-3794)
- **May 6, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.