

S 449

Free Speech Protection Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Feb 13, 2009

Current Status: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. (Feb 23, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/449>

Sponsor

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

Party: Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Feb 13, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 13, 2009
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 6, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Feb 23, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 1304	Related bill	Aug 19, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.

Free Speech Protection Act of 2009 - Allows any U.S. person against whom a lawsuit for defamation is brought in a foreign country for defamation 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: (1) the speech at issue in the foreign lawsuit does not constitute defamation under U.S. law; and (2) the person or entity which brought the foreign lawsuit serves or causes to be served any documents in connection with such foreign lawsuit on a U.S. person.

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

- **Feb 23, 2010:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
- **Feb 13, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 13, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2342-2343)
- **Feb 13, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.