

## S 264

### The Free Speech Fairness Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Taxation

**Introduced:** Feb 1, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Feb 1, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/264>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]

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

### Cosponsors (5 total)

| Cosponsor                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]      | R · KY        |      | Feb 1, 2017  |
| Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]      | R · MO        |      | Feb 2, 2017  |
| Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]       | R · TX        |      | Mar 9, 2017  |
| Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL] | R · AL        |      | Apr 24, 2017 |
| Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]    | R · FL        |      | Dec 1, 2017  |

### Committee Activity

| Committee         | Chamber | Activity    | Date        |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Feb 1, 2017 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Taxation

### Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship   | Last Action   |
|------------|----------------|---|
| 115 HR 88  | Related bill   | <b>Dec 21, 2018:</b> Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate amendment. |
| 115 HR 1   | Related bill   | <b>Dec 22, 2017:</b> Became Public Law No: 115-97.  |
| 115 HR 781 | Identical bill | <b>Feb 1, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.  |

## **Free Speech Fairness Act**

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to permit a tax-exempt organization to make certain statements related to a political campaign without losing its tax-exempt status. An organization may not lose its tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) or be deemed to have participated in, or intervened in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office, solely because of the content of any statement that: (1) is made in the ordinary course of the organization's regular and customary activities in carrying out its exempt purpose, and (2) results in the organization incurring not more than de minimis incremental expenses.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 1, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 1, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.