

HR 8517

Protect Speech Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Oct 2, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (Oct 2, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8517>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Jordan, Jim [R-OH-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** OH • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Buck, Ken [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Cline, Ben [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. McClinton, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Reschenthaler, Guy [R-PA-14]	R · PA		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]	R · WI		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Tiffany, Thomas P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Oct 2, 2020
Rep. Hagedorn, Jim [R-MN-1]	R · MN		Oct 20, 2020
Rep. Hern, Kevin [R-OK-1]	R · OK		Oct 20, 2020
Rep. Johnson, Mike [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Oct 20, 2020
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Oct 20, 2020
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]	R · FL		Nov 27, 2020
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Dec 8, 2020
Rep. Rose, John W. [R-TN-6]	R · TN		Dec 9, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 2, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Oct 2, 2020)

Protect Speech Act

This bill modifies the immunity from liability of a provider or user of an interactive computer service (e.g., a social media company) for screening and blocking offensive content on its platform.

Specifically, the bill provides that this immunity shall not apply to any action taken to restrict access to or availability of material provided by another information content provider unless the action is taken in good faith based on an objectively reasonable belief that the material is (1) obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, promoting terrorism or violent extremism, harassing, promoting self-harm, or unlawful; or (2) violates the applicable terms of service or use.

In order to avoid liability for taking action based on either belief, certain good faith requirements must be met, such as (1) making publicly available terms of service or use that plainly state the criteria for content moderation practices, and (2) not restricting access to or availability of material on deceptive grounds.

Further, the bill specifies that being responsible in whole or in part for the creation or development of information includes instances in which a person or entity solicits, comments upon, funds, or affirmatively and substantively contributes to, modifies, or alters information provided by another person or entity.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 2, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 2, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.