



# ENERGY & COMMERCE NEWSROOM

CHAIRMAN FRANK PALLONE, JR. | 116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

## Statements of Support for the Justice Against Malicious Algorithms Act of 2021

**Brenda Victoria Castillo, President and CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition:**

“Last week’s Senate testimony by former Facebook Product Manager, Frances Haugen, clearly demonstrated how social media platforms are enabling harmful practices that disproportionately impact non-English speaking, Latinx, and BIPOC communities, while placing our children and vulnerable communities at risk for their financial gain. NHMC believes the Justice Against Malicious Algorithms Act of 2021 is a first step to hold social media platforms accountable when they knowingly or recklessly use their algorithm to amplify risks to public safety.”

**Joan Donovan, PhD, Research Director, Harvard Kennedy’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy:**

“Misinformation, hate speech, and inciting content achieve massive scale because recommendation algorithms propel this content further and faster as more and more people interact with it. An algorithm cannot tell truth from falsehood nor discern financial or political agendas. Media manipulators and disinformers have an advantage because they rely on recommendation systems to work exactly as designed. This bill will provide added accountability for companies that employ recommendation algorithms to ensure that what is shown to users is in the public interest.”

**Dr. Hany Farid, Senior Advisor, Counter Extremism Project; Professor, UC Berkeley:**

“By hiding behind a distorted interpretation of a three-decade old regulation crafted at the dawn of the modern internet, the titans of tech have escaped responsibility for their dangerous and deadly products. This modest bill takes an important and critical step to holding Silicon Valley responsible for their reckless disregard of allowing their services to be weaponized against children, individuals, societies, and democracies.”

**Former Ambassador Marc Ginsberg, President of the Coalition for a Safer Web:**

“Section 230’s social media content immunity has proven time and again to have outlived its shelf-life. The safety and security of the American people have been malignly neglected by social media companies in the blind pursuit of ad revenue. So long as interactive computer services can hide behind Section 230, there will never be any transparency, accountability, or liability for their continued amplification of misinformation, extremism, and hate. This legislation represents a vital, long overdue response by Congress to place the vital interest of the American people above the shameless rapacity of social media companies.”

**Roddy Lindsay, former data scientist at Facebook:** “As a former Facebook data scientist, I fully support the Justice Against Malicious Algorithms Act of 2021. This bill would finally put important protections in place against the destructive harms and biases of algorithmic feeds, without destroying the vitality of the American internet economy. It surgically addresses the root cause of many of the harms we have seen on social media — personalized algorithmic amplification — while leaving the important benefits of Section 230 completely intact.”

**Rashad Robinson, President, Color of Change:** “While the Big Tech corporations are still debating whether or not Section 230 protects their deceptive and destructive business practices, the rest of society has moved on. We need the Justice Against Malicious Algorithms Act of 2021, among other measures, because there's now a clear consensus that an unregulated tech industry is an unacceptably dangerous tech industry. The proof is out: just to make another buck, these corporations knowingly program their platforms to deceptively manipulate consumers, elevate dangerous misinformation, escalate racially targeted and hateful intimidation, and enable the planning of fatal attacks like the Jan 6 insurrection. Protecting Black people, and all people, means regulating Big Tech — no executives, no matter how many millions they spend on lobbying, should be able to evade accountability the way Big Tech has for decades.”

**James P. Steyer, Founder and CEO, Common Sense Media:** “As the recent Facebook revelations make clear, certain social media platforms are being extraordinarily reckless with their users' emotional and physical wellbeing, amplifying content and messages that are harmful to children, families, and even our democracy. It is past time to hold social media companies to account, and the Justice Against Malicious Algorithms Act of 2021 would do so. We applaud this critical step in the right direction.”

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