



The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Competition
Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights United
States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer
Rights United States Senate
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

2022 Jan. 27

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Lee:

My name is Erika Brown, and I am the publisher of *The Manchester Cricket*, an independent local weekly newspaper serving Cape Ann, Massachusetts since 1888. I am reaching out to request your support for H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA). This bipartisan bill is critically important to protecting the future of high-quality, local journalism here in Massachusetts and across the country.

A free and diverse press is the backbone of a healthy and vibrant democracy. Yet the control of access to trustworthy news online has become concentrated in the hands of two dominant tech platforms, Facebook and Google. Despite news being the reason for which a significant portion of users turn to Facebook and Google, these companies leverage their dominance over the digital marketplace to set the rules for news publishers and determine how journalism is displayed, prioritized, and monetized.

The JCPA would help address these problems by allowing publishers such as our members to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and an enforcement mechanism will ensure equitable compensation to ALL news publishers big and small.

Recent experiences in Australia and Europe demonstrate that other countries recognize the disparity in bargaining power between news publishers and Facebook and Google and are moving towards a new compensation model for publishers, one that ensures that equitable terms are offered to all publishers and that platforms participate in good faith.

The moment to act in the U.S. is now. It is more important than ever to protect quality journalism and ensure that the people who create journalistic content are compensated fairly for their often-painstaking work.

Journalism is critical to a functioning democracy, and the price of inaction – the disappearance of local news – is too great. I urge you to support news publishers across the country and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Erika Brown
Publisher, *The Manchester Cricket*