



January 31, 2022

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

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

My name is Ron Hasse and I am the president and publisher of Southern California News Group, a company including 11 local newspapers in Southern California covering Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Our company also publishes three Spanish newspapers and numerous community weeklies. **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 in California 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.

Existing laws make it difficult for news publishers – especially small, local and regional publishers – to obtain fair compensation from the platforms for the use of their content. As a result, the newspapers that are vital to bringing our communities together are strained financially if not struggling to survive. The JCPA would help address these problems by allowing publishers such as us to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve.

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 stand with Californian journalists in support of the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Ron Hasse  
President and Publisher  
Southern California News Group

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