

January 28, 2022

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

The Honorable David Cicilline
Chairman, Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial, and Administrative Law United
States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative
Law United States House of Representatives
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar, Ranking Member Lee, Chairman Cicilline, and Ranking Member Buck:

We, the undersigned, strongly 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 journalism, including news and opinion, across the country. We need your support now to sustain coverage of issues of vital importance to your communities. Enhancements are being made to the bill to ensure all publishers are paid equitable terms through joint negotiations.

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.

January 28, 2022

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,

- News Media Alliance
- National Newspaper Association
- America's Newspapers
- Alabama Press Association
- Arizona Newspapers Association
- Arkansas Press Association
- California News Publishers Association
- Colorado Press Association
- Connecticut Daily Newspaper Association
- MDDC Press Association
- Florida Press Association
- Georgia Press Association
- Illinois Press Association
- Hoosier State Press Association
- Iowa Newspaper Association
- Kansas Press Association
- Kentucky Press Association
- Louisiana Press Association
- Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association
- Michigan Press Association
- Minnesota Newspaper Association
- Mississippi Press Association
- Missouri Press Association
- Montana Newspaper Association
- Nebraska Press Association
- Nevada Press Association
- New Jersey Press Association
- New Mexico Press Association
- New York Press Association
- New York News Publishers Association
- North Carolina Press Association
- North Dakota Newspaper Association
- Ohio News Media Association
- Oklahoma Press Association
- Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
- Pennsylvania News Media Association
- New England Newspaper & Press Association
- South Carolina Press Association
- South Dakota Newspaper Association
- Tennessee Press Association
- Texas Press Association
- Utah Press Association
- Vermont Press Association
- Virginia Press Association
- Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington
- Washington Newspaper Publishers Association
- West Virginia Press Association
- Wisconsin Newspaper Association
- Wyoming Press Association