

## Promoting Competition Is Important, But Antitrust Legislation Shouldn't Put Technology, Information, or Opportunity Further Out of Reach

Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee

Rep. David Cicilline  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust

June 22, 2021

Dear Chairman Nadler and Chairman Cicilline:

As organizations committed to advancing economic opportunity for all Americans, we applaud your committee's work to promote healthy high-tech competition that benefits consumers and communities.

As your committee considers specific legislative proposals in the coming weeks, we write to call to your attention the potential unintended consequences of legislative strategies that would inadvertently put technology, information, or opportunity further out of reach for small businesses and other communities that have been left behind.

We are concerned that well-intentioned proposals aimed at forbidding "conflicts of interest" by big technology platforms could **negatively impact services that people today receive for free or low cost**. For example, one legislative proposal would force free apps like Google Maps, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, LinkedIn, iMessage, and FaceTime to be divested from their parent companies. By removing the current cross-subsidization for these free services, this proposal could force consumers to pay for these standalone services --- making technology and opportunity less accessible. That in turn could also make it more difficult for small businesses like those we represent to reach new customers using these tools.

We are also concerned that proposals aimed at "nondiscrimination" could restrict major platforms' ability to **provide information and opportunity tools within their services**. For example, Google (in its search results) and Facebook (in its News Feed) periodically promote their own tools to help consumers find and patronize minority-owned and local businesses, and to share voting information, vaccine information and AMBER and crisis alerts. Any prohibition on services promoting their own tools could hinder these valuable services.

We applaud your leadership on promoting greater competition online, and ask you to consider these potential impacts of any legislation the committee considers.

Sincerely,

**Asia/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE)  
Chamber of Progress  
Latino Coalition  
U.S. Black Chambers**