



October 27, 2021

## **H.3830 Would Force Social Platforms to Carry Irresponsible, Incorrect, and Sensationalized Statements by Political Candidates**

*Bill would enable the spread of hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation by political sharks looking for a seat in the Baystate's capitol.*

Dear Chair Campbell and Chair Finegold,

Our organization, the Chamber of Progress, works to ensure that all Americans benefit from technological leaps.

We strongly support healthy online communities -- free of hoaxes, conspiracy theories, hate speech, incitement to violence, and election- and vaccine-related disinformation. H.3830, which is a clear violation of the Constitution's First Amendment, would tie the hands of services in fighting against conspiracy theories, white supremacists, domestic terror, and voter suppression online.

**H.3830 would have prevented Twitter and FB from removing President Trump's calls for insurrection on January 6.** While in office, President Trump used his Twitter and Facebook accounts to spread the lie that the election was stolen, and to encourage his supporters to foment insurrection. The January 6 attacks on the Capitol that left four people dead and threatened our democratic process spurred social platforms' unprecedented action to deactivate Trump's accounts. But this bill's prohibition on deplatforming speech by political candidates would give Trump-like figures 100% freedom and discretion to use social media to stir another violent insurrection. While platforms don't relish restraining political leaders' speech, the extraordinary events of January 6 proved the need for them to act in extreme cases of political violence.

**H. 3830 would force Facebook and Twitter to carry the speech of white supremacists or domestic terrorists, so long as that speaker was a declared candidate for any public office.** By letting aspiring leaders have complete free rein on social media platforms without recourse, Massachusetts risks allowing dangerous campaign tactics and other content to be published, shared, and reposted without recourse. A domestic terrorist or white supremacist could have free rein to post hate or conspiracy theories online so long as they were a declared candidate for any office, including local offices.

**H. 3830 would tie platforms' hands against hate, hoaxes, and disinformation, allowing political candidates to use social media to spread lies.** By prohibiting social media platforms from, "deplatform[ing] a political candidate for public office in response to a political statement made by the candidate" H.3830 would effectively prohibit Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube from taking action



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against salacious, inflammatory, and untrue claims and provocative content inciting violent behavior of the public made by rouge contenders. Online platforms use content moderation to make their platforms a safe and healthy experience for their users. This bill not only prohibits deplatforming, but punishes and deters platforms for removing harmful content through hefty fines.

Technology services have helped advance progressive goals -- democratizing access to goods and information, giving voice to the marginalized, and supporting millions of high-quality jobs. But no one wants the Internet to become a wasteland of hate and lies, and that's why online services must retain the freedom to moderate healthy online communities -- **including taking action against incendiary or hateful content, and false information, including by political candidates.** In severely limiting services' ability to deplatform candidates that post the most egregious speech online today, this bill would only **incentivize people to spread hate and lies online.**

In defense of safe, healthy online communities, it's vital to speak up against this harmful bill. We urge you to **stand strong in vocal opposition to H.3830.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Williams", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Montana Williams  
Director of State & Local Public Policy