

Statements of Support for the JAWBONE Act

Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression: *“The JAWBONE Act enforces Americans’ First Amendment rights by making clear that the federal government cannot pressure them to censor speech. Multiple administrations of both parties have engaged in jawboning, reflecting a broad and enduring problem. When federal officials cross this line, the JAWBONE Act ensures they can finally be held accountable. It’s a bipartisan solution for a bipartisan problem. We thank Chairman Cruz and Sen. Wyden for introducing this crucial piece of legislation and urge Congress to pass it.”*

– Greg Y. Gonzalez, Legislative Counsel, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression

American Civil Liberties Union: *“Time and time again, the government has abused its authority to coerce private actors into censoring themselves. That will end with the passage of the JAWBONE Act. This critical legislation would protect the First Amendment by stopping this kind of unconstitutional jawboning against broadcasters, platforms, and AI providers. We thank Senators Cruz and Wyden for working to protect freedom of speech and freedom of the press.”*

– Jenna Leventoff, Senior Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union

Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University: *“The JAWBONE Act will provide an important and much-needed mechanism for accountability when government officials unconstitutionally coerce speech intermediaries to suppress speech. We appreciate the leadership of Senators Cruz and Wyden in introducing this bill.”*

– Nadine Farid Johnson, Policy Director, Knight First Amendment Institute

Protect The 1st Foundation: *“Protect The 1st is proud to endorse the JAWBONE ACT, and we commend Sens. Ted Cruz and Ron Wyden for crafting this legislation. This bill addresses the insidious, behind-the-scenes use of government pressure to control and censor speech in America. The JAWBONE Act counters this toxic trend, including with a sorely needed remedy for First Amendment violations. We look forward to working with the Senators to advance this bill into law.”*

– Bob Goodlatte, Senior Policy Advisor, Protect The 1st Foundation

Abundance Institute: *“Social media platforms and artificial intelligence tools empower Americans to speak their minds and hear novel perspectives. This open discourse is protected by the First Amendment: government cannot coerce these companies to suppress what users say or hear. The JAWBONE Act exposes government pressure on these companies and gives censored Americans a path to remedies. It would fortify the marketplace of ideas against government manipulation.”*

– Neil Chilson, Head of AI Policy, Abundance Institute

Center for Democracy and Technology: *“Not every conversation between a government official and a private company is a First Amendment problem — but coercion that leads to censorship is, and it too often escapes judicial review. The JAWBONE Act creates accountability for the cases that cross the line and builds the transparency needed to spot them, while also preserving space for legitimate and restrained government engagement. We’re grateful to Senators Cruz and Wyden for their leadership.”*

– Becca Branum, Deputy Director, Free Expression, Center for Democracy & Technology

Institute for Free Speech: *“The Institute for Free Speech welcomes the bipartisan introduction of the JAWBONE Act. Jawboning is an affront to the First Amendment. When government officials use the power of the state to strong-arm private companies into censoring Americans’ lawful expression, they make a mockery of the First Amendment liberties that are essential to a free society and a functioning democracy. We are glad to see bipartisan recognition that this problem requires a legislative solution. The Institute looks forward to working with the sponsors as this legislation develops, to ensure that the final version of the bill provides the strongest possible protection for Americans’ free speech rights.”*

– David Keating, President, Institute for Free Speech

Public Knowledge: *“When the government coerces platforms, broadcasters, or AI providers into suppressing speech, those silenced voices are too often left without recourse. The JAWBONE Act changes that by giving affected speakers a pathway to accountability. We commend Senators Cruz and Wyden for taking this important step to strengthen First Amendment protections.”*

– Morgan Wilsmann, Policy Analyst, Public Knowledge

Americans for Tax Reform: *“Bureaucrats are not allowed to tell Americans what we can say, so they have started bullying media companies into doing their dirty work for them. The JAWBONE Act will create a real recourse for victims of this indirect censorship and not let bad actors escape just by changing jobs. Twitter and Facebook were pressured by the FBI during the Biden administration to delete posts from the opposition. Broadcasters have had their speech regulated by the FCC for generations. The JAWBONE Act recognizes that the First Amendment applies despite the government’s ability to ruin your business. Congress should pass this swiftly.”*

– Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform

Advancing American Freedom: *“Advancing American Freedom strongly supports Senator Cruz’s JAWBONE Act, which would create a private right of action against government jawboning and censorship. During the Biden Administration, federal officials repeatedly pressured social media platforms to remove, throttle, and suppress speech that the government disfavored, attempting to accomplish secretly and indirectly what it is explicitly barred from doing directly. This legislation provides an essential safeguard to ensure that no administration*

can ever again use intimidation to silence lawful speech and undermine the free exchange of ideas that is part and parcel of our American way of life.”

– Marc Wheat, General Counsel, Advancing American Freedom

Independent Women’s Voice: *“The JAWBONE Act takes a thoughtful approach to a real and evolving challenge. It reinforces First Amendment protections, creates workable enforcement mechanisms, and promotes transparency, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for lawful government activity. Independent Women’s Voice supports policies that protect individual rights and ensure that Americans, not government actors, retain control over their speech and ideas. As digital platforms play an increasingly central role in public discourse, these protections matter more than ever.”*

– Carrie Lukas, Executive Vice President, Independent Women’s Voice

Internet Accountability Project: *“The American people are sick and tired of unelected Deep State bureaucrats colluding with Big Tech tyrants to silence conservatives, rig the political playing field, and crush dissent. The Biden regime and its allies spent years weaponizing government power to pressure social media companies into censoring lawful speech they didn’t like, from COVID dissent to election integrity concerns to criticism of the ruling class. That’s not democracy. That’s authoritarianism. The JAWBONE Act finally puts these corrupt government censors on notice: if you abuse your office to coerce Big Tech into silencing Americans, you will be exposed, sued, and held accountable. No more hiding behind backchannel emails, secret meetings, and wink-and-nod threats to tech monopolies. This bill creates real consequences for the bureaucrats and political operatives who thought they could trample the First Amendment with impunity. President Trump was right: the censorship-industrial complex is one of the greatest threats to freedom in America today. The JAWBONE Act is a necessary weapon to dismantle it and restore free speech for the American people.”*

Protect Democracy: A healthy democracy depends on a robust and open public square, free from government interference. Especially in an election year, Americans’ right to uninhibited information and to an independent press is crucial. The JAWBONE Act protects this foundational aspect of our democracy by strengthening tools to enforce key First Amendment rights. We commend Senators Cruz and Wyden for their leadership and urge Congress to pass this vital bill. – Rachel Goodman, Special Counsel, Protect Democracy

Americans for Prosperity: The JAWBONE Act is designed to protect free expression by limiting the ability of federal officials to use informal pressure campaigns. Concerns about government “jawboning” have arisen under administrations of both political parties, making this a problem that deserves a durable, bipartisan response.

The bill would give a clearer way to challenge improper government coercion and would make these interactions easier to scrutinize, without barring responsible communication between public officials and private entities. We thank Senators Cruz and Wyden for their thoughtful bipartisan leadership and urge Congress to pass this legislation without delay.