

Charlie Kirk Commitment to Truth Resolution:

Supporting the reinstatement of the Smith-Mundt Act and the reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine to strengthen integrity in our public news media.

Whereas, the Fairness Doctrine of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC), introduced in 1949, was a policy that required the holders of broadcast licenses both to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that more fairly reflected differing viewpoints; and

Whereas the Fairness Doctrine required broadcasters to cover controversial public issues in a balanced way, centered on the idea that public airwaves should serve the public interest: and

Whereas, by requiring broadcasters to present contrasting viewpoints, the doctrine created a more informed electorate capable of making well-rounded decisions: and

Whereas, the Fairness Doctrine serves to correct the power imbalance between broadcasters, who could influence public opinion, and the audience, who had limited control over content, and prevented broadcasters from dominating and manipulating public discourse with a single point of view; and

Whereas, in 1987, the FCC abolished the Fairness Doctrine, prompting some to urge its reintroduction through either Commission policy or congressional legislation.

Whereas the Smith-Mundt Act was originally passed in 1948 with the purpose of enabling and protecting the dissemination of truthful information about the United States and its policies to foreign audiences, thereby fostering a better understanding of American principles and democracy; and

Whereas the Smith-Mundt Act ensured that information disseminated by the U.S. government was not intended for domestic propaganda, thereby protecting American citizens from government misinformation; and

Whereas, in 2013, the Smith-Mundt Act was revised under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), allowing for the domestic dissemination of U.S. government-produced media, which significantly alters the original intention of the Act and opens the door for government propaganda to be presented to American citizens; and

Whereas, the amendments made to the Smith-Mundt Act undermine the foundational principle of a fair and balanced media, threatening the integrity of independent news sources and the right of citizens to receive truthful and unbiased information.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Will County Board supports the repeal of the revised Smith-Mundt Act to restore the original intent of the legislation and reaffirm the importance of truth in news broadcasts; and

Be it further resolved that the Will County Board urges all relevant legislative bodies to take action to cease the domestic dissemination of government-produced media, thus ensuring that American citizens are not misled by state-sponsored messaging disguised as impartial journalism; and

Be it further resolved that we support the reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine or the establishment of a similar regulatory framework that ensures broadcasters provide balanced coverage of controversial issues, which will help restore trust in media and promote healthier public discourse;

Finally resolved, copies of this resolution be sent to the Illinois Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Illinois, Illinois Federal Congress members, and relevant stakeholders advocating for media transparency and truth in broadcasting.

Adopted this day of _____, 2025.