
Digital Free Speech Reparations Act of 2025

118th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. R. ____

A BILL

To provide reparations for individuals and entities subject to political censorship, deplatforming, and demonetization by Big Tech companies, advertisers, payment processors, and government actors from January 1, 2019, through the present; to restore protections for political expression in digital platforms; and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Date]

Mr./Ms. [Sponsor] introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "**Digital Free Speech Reparations Act of 2025.**"

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

1. The First Amendment guarantees the right to free speech, free press, and petitioning the government without fear of retribution.
 2. From January 1, 2019, to the present, major technology companies, including but not limited to Apple Inc., Google LLC, Meta Platforms, Inc., YouTube, Twitter/X Corp., TikTok, and payment processors such as PayPal, Square, Stripe, and others, engaged in targeted censorship, deplatforming, demonetization, and coordinated suppression of lawful political expression, disproportionately impacting conservative viewpoints.
 3. These actions were often conducted in coordination with, at the urging of, or with the material participation of government officials and agencies, including but not limited to the Executive Branch of the United States Government.
 4. Such conduct directly caused quantifiable financial losses, stifled competition, and chilled the lawful exercise of political speech.
 5. In certain cases, such as the banning of the social media platform “Wimkin” from Apple and Google app stores in January 2021, companies lost tens of millions of dollars in revenue and potential growth, with documented cases of losses exceeding \$50,000 per day.
 6. The harm is ongoing and, due to equitable tolling, remains actionable for all affected parties.
 7. While the federal government has previously considered reparations for historic injustices over 150 years old, it has not addressed recent, measurable, and ongoing damages caused by politically motivated censorship.
 8. Congress has both the authority and the duty to protect free speech rights in the modern digital public square and to ensure that victims of such coordinated suppression are made whole.
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SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

1. **"Affected Party"** means any person, business, nonprofit organization, publisher, or platform that can demonstrate financial loss, reputational damage, or diminished reach due to politically motivated censorship, deplatforming, or demonetization occurring between January 1, 2019, and the date of enactment.
2. **"Big Tech Company"** means any technology company with annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion and operating an online platform with over 10 million monthly active users. This also includes **financial institutions and payment processing companies**, such as PayPal, Square, Stripe, and other companies providing financial services, that have engaged in politically motivated censorship, deplatforming, demonetization, or the termination of services to individuals or businesses based on political viewpoints.
3. **"Politically Motivated Censorship"** means any removal, suppression, or demonetization of lawful content, accounts, or applications based substantially on the political viewpoint expressed.
4. **"Government Actor"** includes any federal, state, or local government official, agency, or contractor acting under color of law.

5. **"Equitable Tolling"** means the legal doctrine by which the statute of limitations is extended due to ongoing harm or concealment of wrongdoing.
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SEC. 4. REPARATIONS FUND ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) **Creation of Fund** — There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States the Digital Free Speech Reparations Fund (hereinafter "the Fund").

(b) **Funding Source** — The Fund shall be capitalized through:

1. Civil penalties imposed on Big Tech Companies and financial institutions/payment processing companies found to have engaged in politically motivated censorship;
2. Fines levied against advertisers who knowingly participated in or benefitted from such suppression;
3. Appropriations as determined necessary by Congress.

(c) **Target Amount** — The Fund shall seek to distribute no less than \$500 billion to verified claimants.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS PROCESS.

(a) **Eligibility** — Any Affected Party may file a claim demonstrating:

1. Evidence of censorship, deplatforming, or demonetization;
2. Proof of financial loss directly attributable to such action;
3. Occurrence of such harm within the covered period.

(b) **Claims Submission** — Claims shall be filed with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division within three years of the date of enactment.

(c) **Review and Award** — The Attorney General shall establish a review panel to determine awards based on actual damages, projected lost earnings, and punitive adjustments for egregious cases.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON GOVERNMENT-INDUCED CENSORSHIP.

(a) **Ban on Coercion** — No officer or employee of the United States, or of any state or political subdivision thereof, may coerce, request, or otherwise induce a private entity to censor lawful political speech.

(b) **Penalties** — Any violation of subsection (a) shall subject the violator to civil liability, including personal financial liability, and removal from office upon final adjudication.

SEC. 7. RIGHT OF PRIVATE ACTION.

(a) **Private Right of Action** — Any Affected Party shall have a private right of action against any Big Tech Company, advertiser, financial institution, payment processor, or government actor for damages, injunctive relief, and attorney's fees arising from politically motivated censorship.

(b) **Venue for Such Action** — Venue for such action shall lie in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or in the district where the plaintiff resides.

SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect immediately upon enactment.

Authored by J.C. Sheppard – Founder of WiMKiN Social Media, Reelster, Date on the Right, Firefox, Halt Walt, and The Fentanyl Test.

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