



HR0637

LRB102 25951 MST 35333 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, In our modern world, much of our social and political discourse has moved to digital platforms, such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, These digital platforms have allowed any American with an internet connection to express his or her beliefs freely; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Because these digital platforms have become so popular, they are now the primary location in which discourse is conducted, with Facebook having 2.9 billion worldwide users, YouTube having 2.3 billion, and Instagram having 1.3 billion; and

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, This prevalence allows these platforms to exercise far more control over Americans' lives than other businesses; in fact, Justice Clarence Thomas recently suggested that "There is a fair argument that some digital platforms are sufficiently akin to common carriers or places of accommodation to be regulated in this manner."; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, As part of this online discourse, some social media websites offer "like" and "dislike" buttons, in which social media users can register their support or disagreement

20

21

1 with what has been posted; the amount of "likes" and
2 "dislikes" on some sites is then displayed to other users; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 10, 2021, the social media and video
4 sharing website YouTube made the decision to no longer make
5 "dislike" totals visible to the public; and

6 WHEREAS, YouTube claimed that removal of the dislike
7 totals would prevent online harassment; however, the changes
8 appears to be politically motivated after videos on the White
9 House's official YouTube channel began to receive five times
10 as many dislikes as likes on some videos; and

11 WHEREAS, YouTube's efforts to inhibit the speech of
12 Americans to protect one political view point is harmful to
13 the fabric of our nation; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we urge President Joseph Biden and the United States Congress
17 to enact measures to discourage further restraints on speech
18 by tech companies, such as amendments to Section 230 of the
19 Communications Decency Act of 1996, regulation of digital
20 platforms as common carriers, or legislative limits on tech
21 companies' ability to restrict free speech activity on their
22 platforms; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to President Joseph Biden, U.S. Senate Majority
3 Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch
4 McConnell, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House
5 of Representatives Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and all
6 members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.