

Date: Monday, January 30, 2023

Senate Bill No. 50

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill number 50 as it is currently written. I have concerns about certain language in the Bill defining information that would be allowed to be censored.

“(h) (1) Information pertains to obscene, lewd, lascivious or filthy subject matter if the average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the information:”

Line 17 on page 2, (h) (1), can easily be skewed out of a normal person’s moral standard. This is already happening with so-called “normal” employees of tech companies, “normal” fact checkers, and “normal” progressive idealists that are attacking and censoring real people for having conservative opinions and ideas.

“Lacks serious literary value.”

Lines 25 and 38 on page 2, also leave too much room for interpretation. One person’s literary value can be greatly different than another’s.

The Bill should uphold the law and continue to allow the prosecution of online law breakers. Instead of defining what can and cannot be censored online, we should underscore laws that already prohibit illegal activity online (like child pornography, human trafficking, and legitimate threats of violence).

Censorship tends to push good people out of good forums and bad people into underground forums. I would much rather have a true extremist visible while online and not pushed underground or in the shadows lurking.

Thank you for your time and hard work for the citizens of Kansas.

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