

January 30, 2023

Kansas SB 50 Social Media Anti-censorship Bill: Proponent

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I would like to this this bill go forward and be passed because without it, our society is fractured and silenced even more.

My firsthand experience is from younger family members who refuse to discuss opposing opinions to their own and going further, saying to my face it is unacceptable to them for me to have the opinions I have. That is ok, that is their expression of their freedom. The problem is, they are in full battle readiness to have my opinions be shut down and canceled completely. They say I should shut up and be shut down, like -for instance- Donald Trump. This mentality is perpetuated by social media, which indeed does shut people down.

This shutting down and censoring opposing political views is dangerous and furthers divisiveness. We start to not trust each other. We break apart. We will certainly suffer as a civil society when the contemporary structures of communication are shadowed behind the curtain of one-sided manufacture, not allowing the other side to exist within it's company "realm" or censoring the opposite side. A social media company and it's own realm over all is not good for our Nation. Especially one with our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

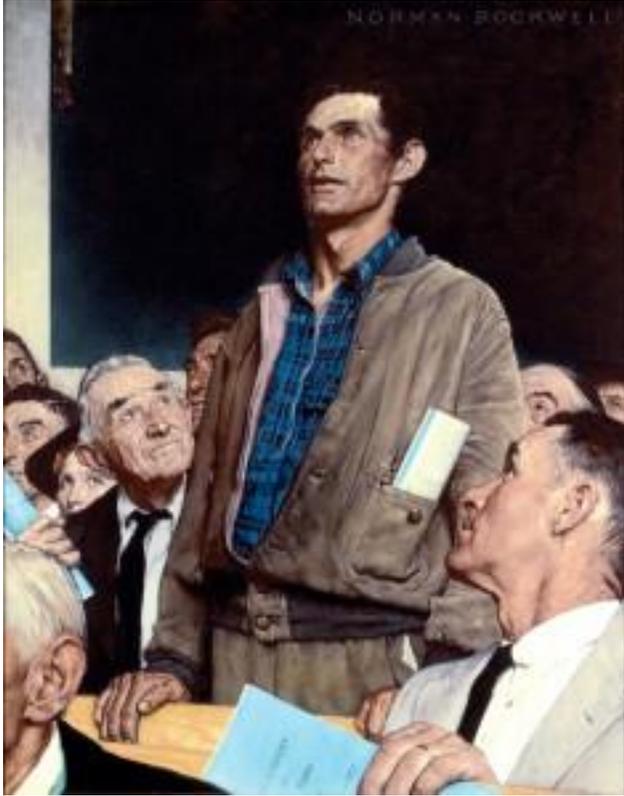
When a social media website can *"restrict, censor or suppress information, including political information and political expression, unless such information pertains to obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing or otherwise objectionable subject matter."* We are in serious danger. We are losing our freedom of speech.

I support this Bill No. 50 and urge you to vote yes for this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sherri Denton

Scroll down to see painting of Freedom of Speech by Norma Rockwell 1943 and about he came up with his Four Freedoms series.



Norman Rockwell (1894-1978), "Freedom of Speech," 1943. Oil on canvas, 45 3/4" x 35 1/2". Story illustration for "The Saturday Evening Post," February 20, 1943. Norman Rockwell Museum Collections. ©SEPS: Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN.

In his January 1941 address to Congress, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt articulated his vision for a postwar world founded on four basic human freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. In the spring of 1942, Norman Rockwell was working on a piece commissioned by the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army, a painting of a machine gunner in need of ammunition. Posters of the gunner, titled *Let's Give Him Enough and On Time*, were distributed to ordnance plants throughout the country to encourage production. But Rockwell wanted to do more for the war effort and decided he would illustrate Roosevelt's four freedoms. Finding new ideas for paintings never came easily, but this was a greater challenge. "It was so darned high-blown," Rockwell said, "Somehow I just couldn't get my mind around it." While mulling it over, Rockwell, by chance, attended a town meeting where one man rose among his neighbors and voiced an unpopular view. That night Rockwell awoke with the realization that he could paint the freedoms best from the perspective of his own hometown experiences using everyday, simple scenes such as his own town meeting. Rockwell made some rough sketches and, accompanied by fellow *Post* cover artist Mead Schaeffer, went to Washington to propose his poster idea.