

# Oppose HB 333

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the committee,

Despite the amendments HB333 is still a horrible bill. Who defines what is "incorrect or misleading information"? What should the state board rely on when issuing "corrective information", on the so-called "fact-checkers"? What if those are the same you are trying to control with this bill:

<https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/google-news-initiative/how-google-and-youtube-are-investing-in-fact-checking/>

Are you trying to enable a tax-funded bureaucracy to circumvent the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment? The right to free speech is about the only law that makes the United States different from every other country in the world and sets apart the free people from those living under various tyrannies. The Supreme Court affirmed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment even allows for anonymous speech, which social media platforms already make almost impossible.

As a frequent user of social media, I can see for myself the flood of hateful information based on lies. I am aware and terrified at the possibility that such speech that targets my ethnicity, religion or heritage would provoke actions against me or my family. I also realize that it may be hard for me to distinguish lies seen online from reality. However, I truly believe that censorship is not the remedy for the lies. We need more speech from truthful and trustworthy sources.

Unfortunately, a state board is not something I can consider a truthful and unbiased source. The government has shown time and again that it will subvert people's rights and advance its own agenda by any legal means. The bills like this are a way to stretch the legal means by using a dominant voting majority. The lies become obvious in time, and so does government propaganda. And the trust has to be earned, not forced through censorship and suppression.

What makes the bill even worse is that it encourages people to snitch on one another, just like in lawless dictatorships throughout history. Please don't tarnish your reputation by voting for this bill.

Sincerely,  
Mark Meyerovich  
District 15