



**Re: HB 333 - Election Disinformation on Large Social Media Platforms and Influence
Related to Voting**

February 6, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Atterbeary and members of the Committee:

My name is Kirsten D'Souza and I serve as the Coalitions Director for Chamber of Progress, a tech industry coalition committed to ensuring all Americans benefit from technological innovation. Our corporate partners include companies like Meta and Google, but our partners do not have a vote on or veto over our positions.

We urge your committee to **oppose HB 333**, which would undermine civic dialog on social media, threaten user privacy, and raise troubling constitutional concerns.

Unpleasant content, including misinformation, is one of the top reasons users and advertisers leave social media platforms. Accordingly, technology platforms invest heavily in fostering reliable public conversations, particularly during election season. Platforms employ globe-spanning teams to review questionable content under the platforms' terms of service, with escalating sanctions from warnings to permanent bans.

HB 333 jeopardizes user privacy

The reporting requirements in HB 333 are so extensive - account name, along with time, date and geolocation data - could lead to retrospective identification. This runs counter to core privacy values of online data minimization and purpose limitation.

Government dictating content moderation decisions raises troubling precedent and constitutional concerns

As discussed, HB 333 would insert the government into these core editorial and curatorial decisions, and in so doing, create a troubling precedent.

Progressive Marylanders would be aghast if red states politicians punish social platforms for allowing racial justice, trans-affirming or reproductive justice content.

Finally, HB 333 raises problematic constitutional concerns.

For these reasons, we ask you to **oppose HB 333**.

Thank you,

Kirsten D'Souza

Coalitions Director

Chamber of Progress