

January 30, 2023

SB 50

Proponent

Name: Mary Blake, Olathe

Representing: Self

To Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Freedom of speech is under attack and we must fight back against the Big Tech cancel culture that's attempting to crush conservative voices of dissent.

Censorship has had a negative effect on our elections. When voters are prevented from knowing about all aspects of a candidate, it changes how they vote. At the national level, if voters had known about the contents of the Hunter Biden laptop, at least 20% of them would not have voted for Joe Biden.

Locally, I'm a member of the private group Conservative Voices on Nextdoor.com in Johnson County. Several of our members have been shut down and not allowed to post content for 30 days because the site administrators do not agree with conservative political expression. These members are being targeted by the administrators for completely frivolous reasons. When I post on this site, I have to be very careful about my wording in order to avoid being "sent to jail" (banned from posting).

Censorship shuts down the truth. When scientifically validated medical information that is vital to the health and lives of Kansans is censored, it can have very serious consequences. Respected medical doctors have been de-platformed, shadow-banned and threatened with having their license to practice medicine revoked – all because they told the truth and dared to say that the so-called "vaccine" was neither safe nor effective.

I have made dozens of posts on Facebook quoting these brave doctors and their work. My posts were taken down and labeled as "misinformation," "disinformation," "fact-checked" and discounted as conspiracy theories.

When truth is re-defined as a conspiracy theory, it is a form of tyranny. Thanks to Senators Thompson, Steffen and Straub for creating this bill. Your work is very much appreciated.