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Bill number: SB 50

Indicate Disposition: Proponent

Jessica Pereira, Self

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony for Senate Bill 50, regarding censorship on social media. My name is Jessica Pereira and I was deleted off of Facebook on January 15, 2021. I had not posted anything in over a week prior to being deleted (Jan 5, 2021). I jumped on my Kansas Rallies Facebook page that day like any other. Nothing was out of the ordinary. After January 6th, President Trump asked patriots not to hold any rallies on inauguration day so I was in the process of canceling a patriotic rally that I had scheduled on January 20 in Topeka in support of President Trump and the stolen election when my Facebook page went down. I tried to log back in and it said that I had violated community standards and after a 0.1 second appeal, I was told that because I violated community standards (but didn't tell me what post) my account was permanently deleted. I could not access anything. I had never been in "Facebook Jail" in over 13 years on Facebook. Only once have I even been restricted, and it was for something that I didn't even post (a proud boy event photo that I pulled up on my phone because I thought it was a different photo but never posted it). Besides my personal page, I also lost my rally page with over 3000 followers and my business account which was the way that I contacted clients. I've tried on 3 separate occasions to set up another account, but none have lasted longer than a day or two, even without posting anything.

When I lost my Facebook, it was like my connection to the world was gone. I could no longer keep in contact with friends and family and see what was going on in their lives. I've missed out on events like Friendsgiving and birthdays. But the worst part of this whole situation is that I was silenced. My voice didn't matter. Even now on other social media accounts, I censor myself so I don't get banned. I don't like or share information and I am extremely hesitant to post anything. I feel like a part of myself was taken that day. I used Facebook a lot over those 13 years, it was very hard to be cut off like that. I grieved for several days afterwards. I felt defeated and invisible; that I didn't matter.

Thank you for taking the time to look into this important matter. The constitution gives all Americans the right to free speech and that is being chipped away at every day. I appreciate all of you doing what you can to protect the constitution the way your oath intended. Keep up the good work! And thank you for allowing my voice to be heard today!

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