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July 27, 2022

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Chairwoman, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust and Consumer Rights  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Cicilline  
Chairman, U.S. House Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law  
2233 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust and Consumer Rights  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck  
Ranking Member, U.S. House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law  
2455 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar, Chairman Cicilline, Ranking Member Lee and Ranking Member Buck:

As the executive director of the national non-profit News Leaders Association, I am reaching out to request your support for H.R. 1735/S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA). The NLA (formed in 2019 by the merger of the storied American Society of News Editors and the Associated Press Media Editors) provides a network that empowers news leaders to build diverse, sustainable newsrooms that use fact-based information to inform and engage the local communities they reflect, in service to democracy. The bipartisan JCPA is critically important to democracy and to the NLA's mission to protect the future of high-quality, local journalism throughout our nation.

A free and diverse press is the backbone of a healthy and vibrant democracy, yet the control of access to trustworthy news online has become concentrated in the hands of two dominant tech platforms – Facebook and Google. These two companies dominate the digital marketplace, setting

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the rules for news publishers and determining how stories are displayed, prioritized and monetized. Meanwhile, small and local publishers are languishing under unfair terms set by Big Tech, whose platforms are posting record revenues derived in large part by shortchanging struggling news publishers that provide the journalism that is raking in big revenue for Big Tech.

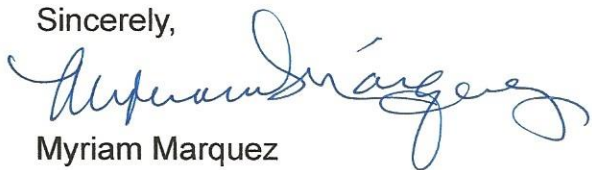
The JCPA would help address these problems by allowing publishers, such as our members, to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and provide an enforcement mechanism that would ensure equitable compensation to local publishers.

Recent developments in Australia and Europe show that other countries recognize the disparity in bargaining power between news publishers and Facebook and Google. They are moving toward a new compensation model for publishers, one that ensures that equitable terms are offered to all publishers and that platforms participate in good faith.

We are past time to act in the United States. Existing laws make it impossible for publishers – especially small, local and regional publishers – to obtain fair compensation from the platforms for the use of their content. As a result, newspapers that are vital to bring our communities together are strained financially. Those that remain are being forced to cut staff to survive, which means less local news for communities and our democracy remains in peril. As it stands, more than 360 U.S. newspapers and their digital sites have gone out of business just in the past two years, according to a study by Northwestern University. Overall, 2,500 newspapers (that's one-quarter of all newspapers) have closed since 2005.

We must protect quality journalism and ensure that the people who create journalistic fact-based content are compensated fairly for their time and painstaking work. The price of inaction – the disappearance of local news – is too great. I urge you to stand with the News Leaders Association in support of the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Myriam Marquez

Executive Director

News Leaders Association

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