

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Elizabeth H. Hughes
Publisher and CEO
215.854.5610
lhughes@inquirer.com

May 31, 2022

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

The Honorable Mike Lee
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Competition Policy, Antitrust, and
Consumer Rights United States Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Cicilline
Chairman, Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial, and Administrative Law
United States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative
Law United States House of Representatives
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

My name is Elizabeth H. Hughes and I am the Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of The Philadelphia Inquirer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am reaching out to request your support for H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA). This bipartisan bill is critically important to protecting the future of high-quality, local journalism in Pennsylvania and across the country.

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. Despite news being the reason for which a significant portion of users turn to Facebook and Google, these companies leverage their dominance over the digital marketplace to set the rules for news publishers and determine how journalism is displayed, prioritized, and monetized.

The JCPA would help address these problems by allowing publishers to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and an enforcement mechanism will ensure equitable compensation to ALL news publishers big and small.

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

The moment to act in the U.S. is now. It is more important than ever to protect quality journalism and ensure that the people who create journalistic content are compensated fairly for their often-painstaking work.

Journalism is critical to a functioning democracy, and the price of inaction – the disappearance of local news – is too great. I urge you to support news publishers across the country and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth H. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth H. Hughes