



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Sen. John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Cornyn,

I represent news publishers in the state of Texas, and I am reaching out to request your sponsorship of 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 Texas and across the country. We need your support now to sustain coverage of issues of vital importance to your communities.

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 such as us to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and an enforcement mechanism would ensure equitable compensation to ALL news publishers big and small.

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 Texas news publishers and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Micheal Hodges
Executive Director
Texas Press Association

Donnis Baggett
Executive Vice President
Texas Press Association

List of our member newspaper publications:

Abernathy Advocate	Buffalo Express	Dallas, Texas Jewish Post
Abilene Reporter-News	Buna, The Buna Beacon	Dallas, The Dallas Examiner
Albany News	Burkburnett Informer Star	Dallas, The Dallas Morning News
Aledo, The Community News	Burnet Bulletin	De Leon Free Press
Alice Echo-News Journal	Burnet, Citizens Gazette	Decatur, Wise County Messenger
Alpine Avalanche	Caldwell, Burleson County Tribune	Denton Record-Chronicle
Alvin Sun	Cameron, The Cameron Herald	Denver City Press
Amarillo, Globe-News	Canadian, The Canadian Record	Deport Times-Blossom Times
Anahuac, The Progress	Canton Herald	Detroit Weekly
Andrews County News	Canyon, The Canyon News	Devine, The Devine News
Anson, Western Observer	Carrizo Springs Javelin	Dimmitt, The Castro County News
Aransas Pass Progress	Carthage, The Panola Watchman	Dripping Springs Century News
Archer City, Archer County News	Cedar Park, Hill Country News Weekender	Dripping Springs, News-Dispatch
Athens Daily Review	Celina Record	Dublin, The Dublin Citizen
Atlanta, Cass Co. Citizens Journal-Sun	Center, The Light & Champion	Dumas, Moore County News-Press
Austin American-Statesman	Centerville News	East Bernard Express
Austin Business Journal	Childress, The Red River Sun	Eastland County Today
Austin, West Austin News	Clarendon Enterprise	Eden Echo
Austin, Westlake Picayune	Clarksville Times	Edna, Jackson County Herald-Tribune
Azle News	Claude, The Claude News	El Campo Leader-News
Baird Banner	Cleburne Times-Review	El Paso Times
Ballinger, Runnels County Register	Clifton, The Clifton Record	Eldorado Success
Bandera Bulletin	Clute, The Facts	Electra Star-News
Bartlett, Tribune Progress	Clyde Journal	Elgin Courier
Bastrop Advertiser	Coleman, Chronicle & Democrat-Voice	Emory, Rains County Leader
Bay City, The Bay City Tribune	Colorado City Record	Ennis, The Ennis News
Baytown Sun	Columbus, Colorado County Citizen	Fairfield, Freestone County Times
Beaumont, The Beaumont Enterprise	Columbus, The Banner Press Newspaper	Fairfield, The Fairfield Recorder
Beeville Bee-Picayune	Comanche, The Comanche Chief	Falfurrias Facts
Bellville, The Bellville Times	Comfort, The Comfort News	Farmersville, The Farmersville Times
Belton, The Belton Journal	Cooper Review	Farwell, State Line Tribune
Big Lake Wildcat	Copperas Cove Leader Press	Ferris, The Ellis County Press
Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal	Corpus Christi Caller-Times	Flatonia, The Flatonia Argus
Big Spring Herald	Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Legal & Business News	Floresville, Wilson County News
Blanco County News	Corsicana Daily Sun	Floydada, Floyd County
Boerne Star	Crane News	Hesperian-Beacon
Bogata News-Talco Times	Crockett, Houston County Courier	Forney Messenger
Booker News	Cross Plains Review	Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co. Mt. Dispatch
Borger News-Herald	Crowell, Foard County News	Fort Hancock, Hudspeth County Herald
Bowie, The Bowie News	Crystal City, Zavala County Sentinel	Fort Stockton Pioneer
Brackettville, Kinney County Post	Cuero Record	Fort Worth Business Press
Brady Standard-Herald	Daingerfield, The Steel Country Bee	Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Breckenridge American	Dalhart, The Dalhart Texan	Fort Worth, Commercial Recorder
Brenham Banner-Press	Dallas, Daily Commercial Record	
Brownfield News		
Brownsville, The Brownsville Herald		
Brownwood Bulletin		
Bryan, The Eagle		

Fort Worth, Tarrant County
Commercial Record
Franklin Advocate
Franklin News Weekly
Fredericksburg, Standard-Radio
Post
Friendswood Reporter News
Friona Star
Fritch, The Eagle Press
Gail, Borden Star
Gainesville Daily Register
Galveston, The Daily News
Gatesville Messenger & Star
Forum
Georgetown, Sunday Sun
Georgetown, Williamson
County Sun
Giddings Times & News
Gilmer Mirror
Gladewater Mirror
Glen Rose Reporter
Goldthwaite Eagle
Goliad Advance-Guard
Gonzales Inquirer
Graham, The Graham Leader
Granbury, Hood County News
Grand Saline Sun
Grapeland, The Messenger
Greenville, Herald-Banner
Groesbeck Journal
Groom, The Groom News
Groveton, Trinity County News-
Standard
Hallettsville Tribune-Herald
Hamilton Herald-News
Hamlin, The Hamlin Herald
Harlingen, Valley Morning Star
Hearne, Robertson County
News
Hebbronville, The Enterprise
Hemphill, Sabine County
Reporter
Hempstead, Waller County
Express
Henderson, The Henderson
News
Henrietta, Clay County Leader
Hereford Brand
Hico News Review
Highlands Star / Crosby Courier
Hillsboro Reporter
Hondo Anvil Herald
Houston Chronicle

Houston, Daily Court Review
Houston, Jewish Herald-Voice
Huntsville, The Huntsville Item
Idalou Beacon
Ingleside Index
Ingram, West Kerr Current
Iowa Park Leader
Irving, The Irving Rambler
Jacksboro Herald-Gazette
Jacksonville Progress
Jasper, The Jasper Newsboy
Jefferson Jimplecute
Johnson City Record-Courier
Junction Eagle
Karnes City, The Karnes
Countywide
Katy Times
Kaufman, The Kaufman Herald
Kermit, The Winkler County
News
Kerrville Daily Times
Kerrville, Hill Country
Community Journal
Kilgore News Herald
Killeen Daily Herald
Kingsville Record
Kirbyville Banner
Kyle, Hays Free Press
La Feria News
La Grange, The Fayette County
Record
La Porte, Bay Area Observer
La Vernia News
Lakeway, Lake Travis View
Lamesa Press Reporter
Lampasas Dispatch Record
Laredo Morning Times
Leonard, The Leonard Graphic
Levelland & Hockley County
News-Press
Lexington Leader
Liberty Hill, The Liberty Hill
Independent
Liberty, The Vindicator
Lindale News & Times
Lindsay Letter
Littlefield, The Lamb County
Leader-News
Livingston, Polk County
Enterprise
Llano, The Llano News
Lockhart Post-Register
Longview News-Journal

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
Lufkin Daily News
Luling Newsboy and Signal
Mabank, The Monitor
Madisonville Meteor
Marble Falls, The Highlander
Marfa, The Big Bend Sentinel
Marlin, The Marlin Democrat
Marshall News Messenger
Mason County News
McAllen, The Monitor
McGregor Mirror & Crawford
Sun
McKinney, Collin County
Commercial Record
Menard News and Messenger
Mercedes, The Mercedes
Enterprise
Meridian Tribune
Mexia, The Mexia News
Miami Chief
Midland Reporter-Telegram
Miles Messenger
Mineola, Wood County Monitor
Mission, Progress Times
Monahans, The Monahans
News
Moulton Eagle
Mount Pleasant Tribune
Muenster Enterprise
Muleshoe Journal
Munday, Knox County News-
Courier
Murphy Monitor
Nacogdoches, The Daily Sentinel
Navasota, The Navasota
Examiner
Needville, Hometown Journal
New Boston, Bowie County
Citizens Tribune
New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung
New Ulm Enterprise
Newton County News
Nocona News
Normangee, The Normangee
Star
O'Donnell Index-Press
Odessa American
Olney Enterprise
Orange, The Orange Leader
Ozona Stockman
Paducah Post
Palacios Beacon

Palestine Herald Press
Pampa, The Pampa News
Panhandle Herald/White Deer
News
Paris, The Paris News
Pearland Reporter News
Pearsall, Frio-Nueces Current
Pecos Enterprise
Perryton Herald
Pharr, Advance News Journal
Pilot Point Post-Signal
Pittsburg, The Pittsburg Gazette
Plainview Herald
Pleasanton Express
Port Aransas South Jetty
Port Arthur, The Port Arthur
News
Port Isabel South Padre Press
Port Lavaca Wave
Portland, The News of San
Patricio
Post, The Post Dispatch
Presidio, The International
Princeton, The Princeton Herald
Quanah Tribune-Chief
Quitaque, Valley Tribune
Ralls, Crosby County News
Raymondville Chronicle &
Willacy Co. News
Refugio County Press
Riesel Rustler
Robert Lee, Observer/Enterprise
Robstown, Nueces County
Record-Star
Rockdale Reporter
Rockport, The Rockport Pilot
Rocksprings, Texas Mohair
Weekly
Rosebud News
Rosenberg, Fort Bend Herald
Rotan, Double Mountain
Chronicle
Round Rock Leader
Roxton Progress
Royse City Herald Banner
Rusk, Cherokeean Herald
Sachse, The Sachse News
Saint Jo Tribune
Salado Village Voice
San Angelo Standard-Times
San Antonio Business Journal
San Antonio, Express-News
San Antonio, Hart Beat

San Augustine Tribune
San Benito News
San Marcos Daily Record
San Saba News & Star
Schulenburg Sticker
Sealy, The Sealy News
Seguin Gazette
Seminole Sentinel
Seymour, Baylor County Banner
Shamrock, County Star-News
Shepherd, San Jacinto News-
Times
Sherman, Herald Democrat
Shiner, The Shiner Gazette
Silsbee, The Bee
Silverton, Caprock Courier
Slaton, The Slatonite
Smithville Times
Snyder, The Snyder News
Sonora, Devil's River News
Spearman, Hansford County
Reporter-Statesman
Springtown Epigraph
Spur, Texas Spur
Stamford, The New Stamford
American
Stamford, The Stamford Star
Stanton, Martin County
Messenger
Stephenville Empire Tribune
Stratford, Sherman County
Gazette
Sulphur Springs, News-Telegram
Sweetwater Reporter
Tahoka, Lynn County News
Taylor Press
Teague Chronicle
Temple Daily Telegram
Terrell, The Terrell Tribune
Texarkana Gazette
Texas City, The Post Newspaper
Thorndale Champion
Three Rivers, The Progress
Throckmorton Tribune
Tulia, Swisher County News
Tyler Morning Telegraph
Uvalde Leader-News
Valley Mills Progress
Van Alstyne Leader
Van Horn, The Van Horn
Advocate
Vega Enterprise
Vernon Daily Record

Victoria Advocate
Vidor Vidorian
Waco Tribune-Herald
Waxahachie Daily Light
Waxahachie Sun
Weatherford Democrat
Weimar Mercury
West, The West News
Wharton Journal-Spectator
Wheeler, The Wheeler Times
White Oak Independent
Whitesboro News-Record
Whitewright, The Whitewright
Sun
Wichita Falls Times-Record-
News
Wills Point Chronicle
Wills Point, Van Zandt News
Wimberley View
Winnie, The Hometown Press
Winnie, The Seabreeze Beacon
Winnsboro News
Woodville, Tyler County Booster
Wylie, The Wylie News
Yoakum Herald-Times
Yorktown News-View
Zapata County News

BIG TECH IS THREATENING LOCAL JOURNALISM.

THE JOURNALISM COMPETITION & PRESERVATION ACT (JCPA) CAN SAVE IT.

H.R. 1735 || S. 673

Congress Must Preserve Quality Local Journalism in **TEXAS**

A free and diverse press is the backbone of a healthy and vibrant democracy. However, local newspapers across the country are being forced to give content and revenue to Facebook and Google with inadequate return. Consumers are harmed by Big Tech's content filtering, data collection motives, and ultimately reducing the output of quality journalism.

Big tech leverages its monopoly power to **STRIP NEWS PUBLISHERS OF REVENUE**

The JCPA is a bipartisan bill, sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and John N. Kennedy (R-LA) and Reps. David Cicilline (D-RI) and Ken Buck (R-CO). The bill would:

Enable news publishers to **collectively negotiate** with Big Tech, driving billions of dollars of earned subscription and ad dollars back to the news publishers who produce journalism

Include an **enforcement mechanism** to ensure that negotiations result in payments, that such payments are evenly distributed to small and local papers, and that payments reflect investments in reporters and newsrooms

Allow **market forces**, not two companies or government, to determine how and for what price news publishers' content is offered

Help local news fight big tech **BY SUPPORTING THE THE JCPA**

QUALITY JOURNALISM FUELS BIG TECH PROFITS, BUT BIG TECH WON'T PAY UP

- News publishers employ **32,540** Texas reporters and newsroom staff.
- Big Tech's ad tech tax takes **50-70%** of every ad dollar from news publishers while hiring zero reporters.
- Local papers could hire more reporters if Google and Facebook paid for the quality journalism that fuels their platforms and profits.

BIG TECH CONTROLS DATA AND INFORMATION PEOPLE RECEIVE

- Google and Facebook capture **60%** of all digital ad dollars because of their ability to collect consumer data.

53%



of Texas residents get their news from Facebook.

51%



of Texas residents use Google as their primary source of news.

KEY ENDORSEMENTS:

- Texas Press Association
- Denton Record-Chronicle
- Texas Association of Broadcasters