

Meeting Summary with Legislative Director for Representative Kinzinger's Office July 2, 2019

The Legislative Director (LD) began the phone conference by confirming that the need for change amongst our platforms is gaining more attention on the Hill, especially concerning the 230 Communication Decency Act. The LD also mentioned that Congress has been looking at over-hauling the entire law, however by doing this, you are also having to work with the opposing side of freedom of speech and 1st amendment rights. We agree that the entire law needs to be re-written however, at this time, we inquired again how the 230 can be amended under a particular area such as the Human Trafficking, not affecting the freedom of speech like many people anticipate, but holding social media responsible for the criminal acts being allowed to their site. The LD informed us that it can be done however the areas of our focus would result in changes within the civil and criminal codes which would fall more into the Senate Judicial Committee, but not entirely away from the Energy and Commerce.

REP. KINZINGERS STANCE ON AMENDING THE 230

According to the LD, there are several factors that have to strategically be placed before anything on the 230 can be drawn up. This law is a significant factor when it comes to working with big business. Research will be extensive, and the wording must be just right in order for the amendment to have a chance to pass within the House. They are encouraging continued contact and asked for another call at the beginning of August as a follow up to our continued work and their continued engagements on this issue.

SUGGESTIONS FROM LD:

Scheduling more meetings with Representatives and Senators were highly advised. By requesting and attending more meetings brings the education deeper into the legislative community, making this bipartisan issue further recognized. In fact, an option was brought to the table that we reserve a committee room and hold a briefing with those offices that are interested in the subject of amending the 230. Bryan and I both thought this was an excellent idea and very good option when planning for our next set of meetings in 2020. We will however look into and see if this November would be doable for such a presentation.

MOVING FORWARD:

Bryan and I will continue meeting with legislators as the LD suggested. We will also keep the contact open and updated work shared with Rep. Kinzinger's staff as requested with a follow up phone conference to be scheduled the beginning of August. We do have meetings scheduled for November 2019 with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House's Energy and Commerce Committee. Seems like change takes forever, but we are absolutely on the right track.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The LD also informed us that Senator Hawley, of Missouri, just this past June, introduced an amendment to the 230 CDA. This amendment was formed on the basis of removal of automatic immunity for big tech companies but allows the big tech companies the ability to earn the immunity. The amendment will not affect the small and medium sized companies. This law is focusing on the removal practices of the platforms algorithms and the proof they are politically neutral. This is a fantastic step in the right direction for all of us seeking platform safety.

See more on Senator Hawley's amendment proposal here:

<https://www.hawley.senate.gov/senator-hawley-introduces-legislation-amend-section-230-immunity-big-tech-companies>