

**[DISCUSSION DRAFT]**119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit the employees, officers, and agents of the Department of State, and persons and entities awarded grants or contracts or otherwise provided, directly or indirectly, Federal funds from the Department of State, from censoring the free speech of United States citizens.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. HUIZenga introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To prohibit the employees, officers, and agents of the Department of State, and persons and entities awarded grants or contracts or otherwise provided, directly or indirectly, Federal funds from the Department of State, from censoring the free speech of United States citizens.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Restoring American  
5       Freedom Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING CENSORSHIP OF FREE SPEECH OF**  
2 **UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

3 (a) PROHIBITING CENSORSHIP OF FREE SPEECH.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(b)(3) of the State  
5 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22  
6 U.S.C. 2651a(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the  
7 end the following:

8 “(G) monitor and ensure that—

9 “(i) no Department employee, officer,  
10 and agent, and no person or entity award-  
11 ed a grant or contract or otherwise pro-  
12 vided, directly or indirectly, Federal funds  
13 from the Department, engages in or facili-  
14 tates conduct that would unconstitutionally  
15 abridge the free speech (as such term is  
16 defined in section 2(b)(2)(C) of the Restor-  
17 ing American Freedom Act) of a United  
18 States citizen;

19 “(ii) none of the funds authorized to  
20 be appropriated or otherwise made avail-  
21 able to the Secretary are used to engage in  
22 or facilitate conduct that would abridge the  
23 free speech (as so defined) of a United  
24 States citizen; and

25 “(iii) appropriate action is taken to  
26 correct past misconduct by each Depart-

1           ment employee, officer, and agent, and  
2           each person or entity awarded a grant or  
3           contract or otherwise provided, directly or  
4           indirectly, Federal funds from the Depart-  
5           ment, who engaged in or facilitated the  
6           censorship of the free speech (as so de-  
7           fined) of a United States citizen.”.

8           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 1(b)(3)  
9           of such Act is amended—

10           (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “;  
11           and” and inserting a semicolon; and

12           (B) in subparagraph (F)—

13           (i) in clause (iii), by striking the semi-  
14           colon at the end and inserting “; and”;

15           (ii) by striking clause (iv); and

16           (iii) in clause (v),

17           (I) by striking “bureaus.” and  
18           inserting “bureaus; and”; and

19           (II) by redesignating clause (v)  
20           as clause (iv).

21           (b) PROHIBITING USING FUNDS TO CENSOR FREE  
22           SPEECH.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—No funds authorized to be  
24           appropriated or otherwise made available to the Sec-  
25           retary of State may be awarded, granted, or other-

1 wise provided, directly or indirectly, to any person or  
2 entity that—

3 (A) publishes or disseminates an adver-  
4 tising blacklist; or

5 (B) creates, tests, or distributes a censor-  
6 ship tool without sufficient safeguards, as deter-  
7 mined by the Under Secretary for Public Diplo-  
8 macy, for preventing such tool from being used  
9 to censor the free speech of a United States cit-  
10 izen.

11 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12 (A) ADVERTISING BLACKLIST.—The term  
13 “advertising blacklist” means a curated list  
14 used to identify a United States citizen for the  
15 purpose of discouraging or prohibiting an ad-  
16 vertiser from placing an advertisement with, or  
17 providing financial support to, such citizen be-  
18 cause of the content of the free speech of such  
19 citizen.

20 (B) CENSOR.—The term “censor” means  
21 to scrutinize and examine the free speech of a  
22 United States citizen with the intent to sup-  
23 press such free speech, and includes—

24 (i) exerting substantial coercive pres-  
25 sure on a third party, such as a social

1 media company, to moderate, remove, or  
2 otherwise suppress such free speech; or

3 (ii) contacting, directly or indirectly,  
4 such as through an academic institution, a  
5 social media company, to moderate, re-  
6 move, or otherwise suppress such protected  
7 speech.

8 (C) FREE SPEECH.—The term “free  
9 speech” means speech protected by the First  
10 Amendment of the United States Constitution  
11 from being suppressed by the United States  
12 Government.

13 (3) ENFORCEMENT.—As soon as practicable,  
14 but not later than 7 days after the date on which  
15 the Secretary of State is notified of each employee,  
16 officer, and agent of the Department of State, and  
17 of each person and entity awarded a grant or con-  
18 tract or otherwise provided, directly or indirectly,  
19 Federal funds from the Department of State, who is  
20 actually or potentially engaging in or facilitating the  
21 censorship of the free speech of a United States cit-  
22 izen, such Secretary shall notify the Chairman and  
23 ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Af-  
24 fairs in the House of Representatives, the Chairman  
25 and ranking member of the Committee on Foreign

- 1 Relations in the Senate, and such United States cit-
- 2 izen of such censorship.