

Dan Acton
House Bill 441 Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Civil Justice Committee
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Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the esteemed House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Dan Acton. I am honored to be here today in support of House Bill 441.

As one of many even in this room, I depend on Twitter and other social media platforms to enable my free speech to be broadcast on the "Public Square" of 2022: social media. Unfortunately, social media giants have taken advantage of the special protections under 47 United States Code Section 230 while violating its purposes. Unfair content moderation by these common carrier platforms can easily move campaigns. As a political activist and pundit, I've personally been victimized by terms so familiar to my chosen political party: shadow banning, throttling new followers, the expropriation of 25,000 followers, and several other issues. Actions such as these act as a muzzle to political conversation and can easily sway elections. As a recent example of the shenanigans by some social media, I posted identical content on my @DannoActon accounts. The results are astonishing and maddening:

Twitter: 52,900 followers, 6 retweets and 10 likes.

GETTR: 31,300 followers, 112 reposts and 286 likes.

Such blatant "algorithm issues" cannot be attributed to anything other than coordinated suppression of speech.

For the reasons above and those presented by recognized industry experts here today, I am grateful to Representatives Scott Wiggam and Al Cutrona for their leadership in addressing the ever-increasing pattern of social media censorship.

Thank you in advance for your affirmative vote on House Bill 441.