

# NEWS MEDIA EUROPE

Brussels, 21 July 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  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Ken Buck  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Antitrust, Commercial and  
Administrative Law  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2455 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

[News Media Europe](#) has closely watched H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA).

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. 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. As a result, while small and local publishers languish under unfair terms set by Big Tech, the platforms line their pockets with record revenues derived partly from shortchanging news publishers while cutting side deals for themselves.

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 an equitable settlement for all news publishers, big and small, in the United States.

We have seen a similar approach work in Australia, where publishers are fairly compensated for the content their journalists produce. We are watching the same unfold in Europe and some Americas countries. The moment to act in the United States 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, which could bring communities together.

Journalism is critical to a functioning democracy, and the price of inaction – the disappearance of local news in the U.S. – is too great. Therefore, we urge you to support news publishers across the

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United States and support the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act. This legislation will serve as a precedent for other countries in the Americas, where efforts are also being made to adopt public policies to support the media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wout van Wijk', written on a light-colored background.

Wout van Wijk  
Executive Director  
News Media Europe