

Submitter:

Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB686

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 686, which proposes that online platforms be required to pay digital journalism providers or donate to the Oregon Civic Information Consortium.

While supporting quality journalism and civic engagement is important, I believe that this legislation could have unintended negative consequences. Mandating payments or donations from online platforms may place an undue financial burden on businesses, potentially leading to reduced innovation, increased costs for consumers, or even the suppression of certain online content.

Furthermore, such mandates could raise concerns about free speech and the free flow of information, as well as create an uneven playing field that favors certain media outlets or organizations over others. It is essential that government policies encourage diverse and independent journalism without imposing burdens that could stifle free enterprise and expression.

Instead of legislation that mandates payments from online platforms, I urge policymakers to explore voluntary support mechanisms or public-private partnerships that foster sustainable funding for journalism and civic information.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I respectfully oppose SB 686 and hope that alternative approaches to supporting journalism and civic engagement will be prioritized.