

# EMPOWER OVERSIGHT

*Whistleblowers & Research*



April 1, 2026

Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate

Chairman James Comer  
Committee on Oversight and Government  
Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairman Jim Jordan  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairman Jason Smith  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen:

We write to alert you to alarming big tech suppression of [www.shieldedbypower.com](http://www.shieldedbypower.com), a campaign to fund the production of our documentary *Shielded By Power: The Whistleblowers vs. the Big Guy*.

As you know, in 2020, Facebook and Twitter took the extraordinary step of limiting distribution of reporting by *New York Post* columnist Miranda Devine concerning Hunter Biden's laptop, its record of Hunter Biden's business dealings, and its connection to presidential nominee Joe Biden's claims concerning his own involvement. This suppression raised significant questions about viewpoint discrimination and the role of dominant platforms in shaping public discourse, particularly during a presidential election. According to one poll, "[H]alf of respondents said they would have voted differently had they known the Hunter Biden's laptop revelations were authentic."<sup>1</sup>

In a letter to Congress four years later, Mark Zuckerberg—the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Meta Platforms who was just last week appointed to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology<sup>2</sup>—wrote of the episode:

[W]hen we saw a *New York Post* story reporting on corruption allegations involving then-Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's family, we sent that story to fact-checkers for review and temporarily demoted it while waiting for a reply. It's

<sup>1</sup> "Info on Hunter Biden Laptop Could Have Swung The Election," Tipp Insights, Dec. 13, 2022, <https://tippinsights.com/info-on-hunter-biden-laptop-could-have-swung-the-election>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2026/03/president-trump-announces-appointments-to-presidents-council-of-advisors-on-science-and-technology>.

since been made clear that the reporting was not Russian disinformation, and in retrospect, we shouldn't have demoted the story. We've changed our policies and processes to make sure this doesn't happen again[.]<sup>3</sup>

Yet recent events suggest social media companies may *again* be suppressing particular viewpoints.

One of the factors that “made clear” the Hunter Biden laptop was not Russian disinformation was the decision by our clients, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Special Agents Gary Shapley and Joseph Ziegler, to blow the whistle to Congress. Among other things, Shapley and Ziegler disclosed that the Hunter Biden laptop had been accessed with a search warrant signed by Ziegler, had been in the Federal Bureau of Investigations' possession since the fall of 2019, and had been fully authenticated months in advance of the *New York Post* reporting.

To tell this remarkable story, our organization has partnered with Fruition Productions to produce a documentary. We have already filmed many of the key interviews for the film. But to raise money for production and release, we launched a campaign on the crowdfunding website Indiegogo. Indiegogo sought several changes to the content on our page, delaying the project's launch by several weeks and impeding the momentum of the project.

Finally, when the campaign went live this month, we launched digital advertising directing viewers to [www.shieldedbypower.com](http://www.shieldedbypower.com). The ads included video clips from journalists like Miranda Devine, whose story was suppressed in 2020; John Solomon, who received significant scoops on the story; and Matt Taibbi, whose reporting on the “Twitter files” in 2022 and 2023 exposed more of the suppression. The ads also include clips from commentators like Mike Benz of the Foundation for Freedom Online, who educates the public on the pervasiveness of censorship in our society, and elected officials, including yourselves.

Yet Meta Platforms, X Corporation, and Google LLC strongly appear to be suppressing advertisements promoting this documentary. In recent weeks, our team has jumped through a Kafkaesque series of hoops attempting to run ads on all three. We have met every condition required. But Meta simply suspended the ad account, removing all user data of even unrelated ads, and forcing us to use other accounts to propose the ads for the documentary. Google also suspended our ads account. To date, not a single ad has run on any of the three platforms—and even their customer service representatives can't explain why.

After thorough questioning, one customer service specialist at Meta did say the platform doesn't “support the scope of this content.” But not only is this reminiscent of prior instances of viewpoint discrimination—it constitutes suppression of the story of Facebook's very own past actions on this exact same topic.

We knew Hollywood would not want to see our documentary made. But to be censored by one of the same social media companies that suppressed this story previously raises significant questions about the truthfulness of their responses to past congressional oversight.

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<sup>3</sup> Letter from Mark Zuckerberg to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, Aug. 26, 2024.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that your Committee investigate:

1. Why Meta, X, and Google have failed to run our ads, despite all proper configurations;
2. Whether such actions are consistent with publicly-stated policies and applied in a viewpoint-neutral manner;
3. The extent to which similar restrictions have affected other organizations engaging in public-interest advocacy; and
4. Whether action is warranted to ensure transparency, accountability, and protection of lawful speech in the digital public square.

We would be pleased to provide documentation of the suppression, communications with Meta, X, and Google, and additional context to assist your inquiry.

Thank you for your continued leadership in safeguarding free expression and ensuring that powerful institutions—public and private alike—are held accountable.

Cordially,  
/Tristan Leavitt/  
Tristan Leavitt  
President

CC: The White House