

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blackburn,

As Executive Director of the Tennessee Press Association, I represent our 134 member news publishers in the state of Tennessee, and I am reaching out to request your sponsorship of H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA). This bipartisan bill is critically important to protecting the future of high-quality, local journalism in Tennessee and across the country. We need your support now to sustain coverage of issues of vital importance to your Tennessee communities, both large and small.

As you know, 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. Despite news being the reason for which a significant portion of users turn to 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.

The JCPA would help address these problems by allowing publishers across the country to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and an enforcement mechanism would ensure equitable compensation to ALL news publishers big and small.

Recent experiences in Australia and Europe demonstrate that other countries recognize the disparity in bargaining power between news publishers and Facebook and Google and are moving towards a new compensation model for publishers, one that ensures that equitable terms are offered to all publishers and that platforms participate in good faith.

The moment to act in the U.S. 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.

Journalism is critical to a functioning democracy, and the price of inaction – the disappearance of local news – is too great. I urge you to support Tennessee's news publishers and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Carol Daniels, Executive Director
Tennessee Press Association

Bristol - Bristol Herald Courier (VA)
Chattanooga - Chattanooga Times Free Press
Clarksville - The Leaf Chronicle
Columbia - The Daily Herald
Greenville - The Greeneville Sun
Jackson - The Jackson Sun
Johnson City - Johnson City Press
Kingsport - Kingsport Times News
Knoxville - News Sentinel
Maryville - The Daily Times
Memphis - The Commercial Appeal
Memphis - The Daily News
Morristown - Citizen Tribune
Murfreesboro - The Daily News Journal
Nashville - The Tennessean
Oak Ridge - The Oak Ridger
Paris - The Paris Post Intelligencer
Sevierville - The Mountain Press
Alamo - Crocket County Times
Ardmore - Your Community Shopper
Ashland City - Ashland City Times
Athens - The Daily Post Athenian
Bartlett - The Bartlett Express
Bean Station - Grainger Today
Benton-Polk County Times
Bolivar - Bulletin Times
Brownsville - Brownsville Press
Byrdstown - Pickett County Press
Camden - The Camden Chronicle
Carthage - Carthage Courier
Celina - Citizen Statesman
Celina - Dale Hollow Horizon
Centerville - Hickman County Times
Chattanooga - Hamilton County Herald
Clarksville-Ft Campbell Courier
Clarksville-Main Street Clarksville
Cleveland Daily Banner
Clinton - The Courier News
Collierville - The Collierville Herald
Cookeville - Herald Citizen
Covington - The Leader
Crossville - Crossville Chronicle
Dayton - The Herald News

Dickson - The Dickson Herald
Dickson - Dickson Post
Dover - The Stewart County Standard
Dover - The Stewart Houston Times
Dresden - Dresden Enterprise
Dunlap - The Dunlap Tribune
Dyer - The Tri City Reporter
Dyersburg - State Gazette
Elizabethton - Elizabethton Star
Erwin - The Erwin Record
Fairview - The Fairview Observer
Fairview - Main Street Fairview
Farragut - Farragut Press
Fayetteville - The Elk Valley Times
Fulton - The Current
Gainesboro - Jackson County Sentinel
Gallatin - The Gallatin News
Germantown - Germantown News
Hartsville - The Hartsville Vidette
Henderson - Chester County Independent
Hendersonville - Hendersonville Standard
Hohenwald - Lewis County Herald
Humboldt - The Humboldt Chronicle
Huntingdon - Carroll County News Leader
Jamestown - Fentress Courier
Jefferson City - The Standard Banner
Jonesborough - Herald & Tribune
Kimball-South Pittsburg Marion County News
Kingston - Roane County News
Knoxville - The Knoxville Ledger
Lafayette - Macon County Chronicle
Lafayette - Macon County Times
LaFollette - The LaFollette Press
Lawrenceburg - The Democrat Union
Lebanon - The Lebanon Democrat
Lebanon - The Wilson Post
Lenoir City - News Herald
Lewisburg - Marshall County Tribune
Lexington - The Lexington Press
Linden - Buffalo River Review
Livingston - Livingston Enterprise
Livingston - Overton County News
Lynchburg - The Moore County News

Manchester - Manchester Times
Martin - Weakley County Press
Maynardville - The Union News Leader
McKenzie - The McKenzie Banner
McMinnville - Southern Standard
Memphis - The New Tri State Defender
Memphis - West Tennessee News
Milan - The Mirror Exchange
Millington - The Millington Star
Mt. Juliet - The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet
Mt. Juliet - Mt. Juliet News
Mountain City - The Tomahawk
Murfreesboro - Murfreesboro Post
Nashville-Main Street Nashville
Nashville - The Nashville Ledger
Nashville - The Tennessee Tribune
Newport - The Newport Plain Talk
Oneida - Scott County News
Parsons - The News Leader
Pikeville - The Bledsonian Banner
Pleasant View - Cheatham County Exchange
Portland - The Portland Leader
Portland - Portland Sun
Pulaski - Pulaski Citizen
Ripley - The Lauderdale County Enterprise
Ripley - The Lauderdale Voice
Rogersville - The Rogersville Review
Savannah - The Courier
Selmer - Independent Appeal
Selmer-McNairy County News
Shelbyville - Shelbyville Times Gazette
Smithville - Smithville Review
Somerville - The Fayette Falcon
Sparta - The Sparta Expositor
Springfield - Robertson County Connection
Springfield - Robertson County Times
Sweetwater - The Advocate & Democrat
Tazewell - Claiborne Progress
Tiptonville - Lake County Banner
Tracy City - Grundy County Herald
Trenton - The Gazette
Tullahoma - The Tullahoma News
Union City - Union City Daily Messenger
Wartburg - Morgan County News

Waverly - The News Democrat
Waynesboro - The Wayne County News
Winchester - The Herald Chronicle
Woodbury - Cannon Courier