

My name is Will Hoerl....and I am in full support of SB50.

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I have received warnings online for using simply "forbidden words" such as "Covid"...and I have had some of those messages 'blocked'. Initially I intended to write from the perspective of being censored online...but....I decided to take different perspective.

The people who got 'blocked' and 'censored' are not the only ones who suffered. People who might benefit from hearing those blocked comments, also paid a price. After two long years of almost total censorship by big tech companies, we now hear story-after-story-after-story about "mis-information" (from 2020 / 2021) that turned out to be true. Elon Musk has opened the basement door at Twitter and we find all sorts of information censor skeletons hiding there. Current medical reality increasingly reveals the errors and (in some instances) outright lies uttered by those 'in power', while all contrary medical opinions and information was 'blocked' and 'censored'.

Big tech applications are in many ways the same as a telephone system. They are the pathways by which people exchange information. To allow these companies to decide which pieces of information they will send and which they will not..sounds very similar to having a telephone operator monitor my call and disconnect me if I say something he/she does not like.

Censorship rules by big tech are NOT about safety, nor even about 'mis-information'. These rules are about controlling a political and cultural narrative, and 'blocking' everyone who does not share that narrative. This sort of censorship violates the 1st amendment in the most egregious way possible. This needs to stop.

Please support SB 50 and bring Kansas back into under the shelter of First Amendment freedom.

Will Hoerl