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MARK STEFFEN, M.D.
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February 1st, 2023

SB 50

Esteemed Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 50, The Social Media Anti-Censorship Bill. For the sake of brevity, the following points are of particular note:

- 1) Section 230 of the Federal Code was passed in 1996 to provide legal immunity to fledgling social media companies (interactive computer services). It also gave these companies authority to moderate problematic content.
- 2) These fledgling companies with their legal immunity grew into mega companies know as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc..
- 3) These companies began moderating content whimsically. Beyond what was the intent of Section 230.
- 4) The cancel culture began to peak in 2016 and continues today. From Trump, to small scale political campaigns, to medical information, to the White House conspiring with Twitter, to Direct TV cancelling Newsmax. The spirit of fairness and truth has been violated.
- 5) I have met with the social media leadership twice. Once in Salt Lake City and most recently at their ground zero, Silicon Valley. They say some incredulous things about SB 50. You will immediately know them to be untrue. After the wailing and gnashing of teeth, these companies quietly admit that SB 50 is legitimate and will work as intended.
- 6) SB 50 artfully navigates Section 230. SB 50 protects the social media's First Amendment rights. And, it protects the Kansas citizen's rights to be heard regardless of political affiliation via our consumer protection act.

Bottom line- While the social media cancel culture has been historically focused on conservative thought, I truly believe that this is a bipartisan bill worthy of all our support. The censorship gun may be pointed at me now but the barrel can swing to a new target very quickly. Just ask Elon Musk.

Senator Mark B. Steffen, M.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Steffen M.D.", written over a horizontal line.