



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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To the Members of the United States Congress:

On behalf of TechNet, I write to share our perspective on the importance of Section 230 of the *Communications Decency Act*. We urge Congress to avoid proposals that could jeopardize this vital law and reject the current proposal to repeal it without a clear plan to mitigate the devastating consequences that such an action would have on our entire economy.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. Our [membership](#) includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.4 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Section 230 was enacted in 1996 to provide much-needed legal clarity and protections for online service providers and innovators and to support the growth of the internet as a platform for free expression, innovation, and diverse content. The early days of the internet were much different than the vibrant digital economy we see today. It was a Wild West of information, with potential for incredible growth, but also serious pitfalls. Platforms faced a tough choice: they could either allow any and all forms of content, including harmful content, to be posted online to escape liability, or take active steps to remove offensive content and face the risk of costly litigation.

Thankfully, Congress recognized that this dilemma could stifle the development of the internet and responded by enacting Section 230, including the “26 words that made the internet:”

*“No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider.”*

Section 230 provided the legal framework to empower platforms to promote a healthy internet ecosystem without facing the threat of crippling lawsuits for every piece of user-generated content.

Many of the technologies and services that Americans love and use every day exist because Section 230 has promoted the “continued development of the internet and other interactive computer services.” Today, over [85%](#) of American businesses rely on user-generated content — from the mom-and-pop shop with a vibrant online forum to the established retailer building its e-commerce platform. Section 230 protects them all, ensuring a vibrant digital marketplace that fuels our economy and empowers consumers. Eliminating Section 230 would expose startups and small businesses around the country to a legal minefield based solely on user-generated content. Ultimately, Section 230 levels the playing field, letting innovation flourish regardless of company size.

Let's work together to ensure the internet remains a platform for free expression, economic growth, and continued American leadership in the digital age.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carl Holshouser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" being more prominent than the last name "Holshouser".

Carl Holshouser  
Executive Vice President