

Rep. Sortwell, Sen. Roth: Protecting Wisconsinites' First Amendment rights from big tech

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Madison – Representative Shae Sortwell (R-Gibson) released the following statement today regarding the circulation of his three social media censorship package, co-authored with Senator Roth:

“Big Tech has long been violating people’s free speech rights through deleting, censoring, and shadow-banning because they disagree with what is posted or who is posting it.

And now, Big Tech is colluding with President Biden to suppress free speech and push his agenda. Government cannot simply bypass their Constitutional restrictions by having businesses do their dirty work for them.

Senator Roth and I will hold them accountable with our package of three bills and will work to protect that First Amendment liberty of every person in the great State of Wisconsin.

We expect this kind of suppression in China, but it is disturbing that we have allowed it to occur in America, the Land of the Free.”

LRB 2090 provides a civil cause of action for any Wisconsin resident against a social media company who censors, shadow-bans, or otherwise alters a user’s speech on social media sites.

This bill allows a local DA, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, or the resident to file suit against social media corporations in violation of these prohibitions.

LRB 3211 protects the ability of journalistic outlets to publish their materials on social media by creating a cause of action for journalistic outlets to push back on social media giants' censorship of their publications.

LRB 4301 implements a penalty structure for government officials in Wisconsin who choose to engage in unethical conduct in direct violation of the First Amendment's principles.