PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES TO OUR UNITED STATES CONGRESS

For Free-Speech Safeguards on Digital Platforms, and for Review of Enforcement Practices That Silence and Impoverish Americans

To: The Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled

Delivered to: every Member of Congress. This document may be scanned and shared freely.

Submitted by: Adam J. Mackintosh, founder of American Guard on TikTok (@americanguard)

Date: October 10, 2026

I. Who We Are and Why We Petition

The First Amendment protects "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." We exercise both rights in this petition and in our parallel Declaration, which is live at Viewit.Channel/Story.

I, Adam J. Mackintosh, have appointed myself an American Guard, and I am conducting a peaceful, lawful assembly of Americans. We have written down our grievances. I have gathered Americans' grievances from their own TikTok videos, and I continue to assert them in the Declaration of Labor Independence. We have signed it, and I am gathering more signatures. We now bring it to the branch of government the Constitution charges with making the laws.

I, Adam J. Mackintosh, have taken up this work as my own duty, because it is our duty to provide new guards for our future security. I am not a lawyer. I am a working American who has lived what this petition describes and what our Declaration sets forth. I pledged my allegiance to the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, long ago, as a boy in a classroom in Sacramento, California, when that pledge was a daily practice. I have now pledged my life to working for my fellow Americans, to protect them while they are in toil, when no one else genuinely speaks for them. I ask every Member of Congress who reads this to look carefully at what has happened and to act alongside our peaceful and legal revolution through the Declaration of Labor Independence. It is the first Declaration of Labor Independence in the United States, or anywhere in the world. It is not a new declaration. It is a continuation of the work our founders left unfinished in the words "all men are created equal." It is a once-in-a-generation chance to show the power of the American people when we assemble. I ask Congress to call on the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, to intervene in California and to seek a consent decree, or other relief, that addresses the prayer for relief in our Declaration. No American has taken on this heavy burden, but I love my country, dearly, deeply, and forever. Most of my family has served, or now serves, in the Armed Forces, or

has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense. We need immediate intervention. We are being reduced under absolute despotism, and we lay forth the facts to support that claim.

II. What Has Happened

Americans speak on platforms now. The town square of this century is a phone screen. Americans organize, report, petition, and criticize their government on a handful of private platforms. For many, especially those who have lost their homes and their work, a platform is the only voice they have left — a voice that lets them be heard, and begin to heal from the harms they have faced.

That speech is being silenced without process. Posts about public officials and public policy are muted, flagged, removed, or demonetized. Notices cite a "community guideline" without naming the rule or the words that broke it. This is broad silence. Appeals are denied within minutes, instantly, by automated systems, before any American could have reviewed them. There is no explanation, no hearing, and no one to answer to.

I have experienced it. Videos I posted about public officials, including recordings of an elected official speaking in public, have been muted. Other posts about my grievances have drawn community-guideline notices. TikTok's own records of these actions exist and can be produced at Congress's request.

The courts cannot reach it. The First Amendment restrains the government, not private companies. Courts in this country have held that a platform's moderation decisions are not government action, and they dismiss cases that ask otherwise, often at screening, before any facts are heard. See, e.g., *Prager University v. Google LLC*, 951 F.3d 991 (9th Cir. 2020). Federal law separately shields platforms' moderation decisions from most lawsuits. 47 U.S.C. § 230(c). And the Supreme Court has recognized that platforms' editorial choices carry First Amendment protection of their own. *Moody v. NetChoice, LLC*, 603 U.S. 707 (2024).

The result is a gap. Platforms are not citizens, and they are not the government. They hold the public square, yet they answer to no court, no voter, and no statute when they silence an American's lawful speech. No branch of government has closed that gap. Only Congress can. **We ask for an exclusion.** Our Declaration puts life above profit. Whatever rule a platform applies, and whatever national-security ground any action may rest on, I ask, with respect, that our peaceful assembly and petitioning under the First Amendment be excluded from moderation. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to reignite the spirit in which the Declaration of Independence was drafted in 1776, and to reinforce our labor rights, our civil rights, and our lives for a more prosperous country. These rights were secured by George Washington and by all who followed him and believed in what he fought for. I re-voice their words as I lead this respectful collection of signatures and evidence — the harms and injuries of overworked and overtaxed Americans, gathered for redress.

I have lost nearly everything I had. What remains is my voice and my free will, and I will use them: to stand in front of my fellow Americans and say that we will not be reduced under absolute despotism, and to reach the ones who are closest to giving up before they do. I ask Congress to stand with us, in honor of the spirit of the United States of America and our great conscience, and in keeping with the words and wishes of the men who signed our Declaration of Independence, many of whom gave their lives for it. We have had enough exploitation of our lives. The court records of the past decades speak louder than I ever could; I have cited them in our Declaration of Labor Independence.

III. The Injury

Silencing is not a small harm. When a person's grievance cannot be heard, the grievance does not go away; it deepens. People who have already lost their income, their homes, and their savings to fines, fees, automated citations, holds, levies from government agencies in California, and impounds lose the last tool they have to ask for help. Their stories are muted at the moment they most need to be heard. That injury is real, it is repeated across millions of Americans, and today it has no remedy. Whatever the reason I stand before you, I ask you to stand with me and help lift our fellow Americans from the despair, harm, and injury — and, most of all, from the silencing of their voices, which leads to deeper despair, to suicide, and to the loss of the will to live.

The Declaration of Labor Independence states the grievances this silencing hides.

IV. What I Ask Congress to Do On Their Behalf

1. **Hold oversight hearings** on how platforms moderate civic, political, and petitioning speech, including automated enforcement, the muting of recordings of public officials, and the denial of appeals without human review.

2. **Enact platform due process.** When a platform removes, mutes, restricts, or demonetizes lawful speech, the user should receive written notice naming the specific rule and the specific content; a review by a person, not only an algorithm, within a set time; a written reason for the result; and a clear path to reinstatement.

3. **Require transparency.** Platforms should publish regular reports of enforcement actions by category, including political and civic speech, with error and reversal rates, and should preserve enforcement records so that wrongful actions can be reviewed.

4. **Forbid government pressure to silence lawful speech.** No federal, state, or local official should direct or coerce a platform to suppress an American's lawful speech. Every such request should be disclosed. The Supreme Court has recognized the danger. *National Rifle Ass'n of America v. Vullo*, 602 U.S. 175 (2024). Congress should give that principle the force of statute and a remedy.

5. **Exclude petitions and peaceful assembly from moderation.** Speech that petitions government or organizes peaceful assembly — including our Declaration, which puts life above profit — should be excluded from automated removal, muting, restriction, and demonetization, and should receive human review before any action is taken against it.

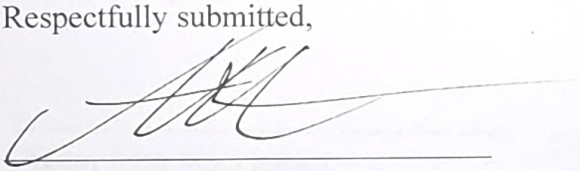
6. **Order an independent study.** Direct the Government Accountability Office to study government requests to platforms and the enforcement of platform rules against civic and political speech, and to report its findings to Congress and the public.

7. **Review the practices behind our grievances.** Examine fines-and-fees, registration-hold, and impound practices, overtaxation, and arbitrary takings of Americans' hard-earned money and substance, in programs that receive federal funds, and their role in pushing working Americans into homelessness.

V. Our Commitment

We assemble peacefully. We petition lawfully with respect and civility. We ask for nothing the Constitution does not already promise. We ask only that its promise reach the places where Americans now speak, and that those who are silenced have someone to answer them.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam John Mackintosh
Founder, American Guard (@americanguard)

Attachment A: Declaration of Labor Independence, viewable on Viewit.Channel/Story