

Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee



A RESOLUTION OF THE MULTNOMAH DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Resolution # 2024-3: Opposition to Proposed HR 7520 (Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024) and HR7521 (Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act)

WHEREAS the bills in question are a hasty reattempt at unpopular and previously failed legislation from last year:

- a. S 686 Restricting the Emergence of Security Threats that Risk Information and Communication Technology aka RESTRICT Act
- b. HR 1153 the Deterring America's Technological Adversaries aka DATA Act

Both of which were opposed by The Democratic Party of Multnomah County via Resolution 2023-1 on 04/13/2023; and

WHEREAS these bills fail to address any of the concerns raised in Resolution 2023-1; and

WHEREAS these bills infringe upon Americans' rights of freedom of speech, expression and association; and

WHEREAS these bills violate section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act jeopardizing online platforms' protections from liability for user-generated content, thus hindering the platforms' role as neutral intermediaries and limiting public access to diverse opinions and ideas; and

WHEREAS these bills seek to weaken the Berman Amendment of 1988 which protects our right in the U.S. to receive information, regardless of the country of origin; and

WHEREAS numerous members of Congress, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders, Cory Booker, and President Biden, have embraced TikTok as a creative and engaging space to connect with constituents; and

WHEREAS these bills contradict several planks of the Multnomah County Democrats 2022 platform (Articles VIII & X); and

WHEREAS these bills significantly expand the Executive Branch's power to control what apps and technologies, (in the case of the recent bills... granting the President the option of unilaterally banning any app they believe is 'a threat') we can use or access; and

WHEREAS past attempts at banning TikTok have been legally contested and dismissed by federal judges, revealing failed attempts at far reaching censorship under the thinly guised name of national security; and

WHEREAS These bills solely focus on foreign data management displaying discriminatory, hypocrisy and a failure to address broader issues with cyber-data today; and

WHEREAS US Congress members have failed to recuse themselves due to conflicts of interest with TikTok's top competitors; and

WHEREAS banning Tiktok would cause significant & immediate economic harm in the US;

- Directly employs approximately 7,000 Americans, and supports at least 224,000 jobs;
- Contributed \$24.2B to US GDP last year.
- Drove \$14.7B in small-business owners' revenue last year.
- 39% of surveyed SBOs said Tiktok is CRUCIAL to their existence.
- 69% said app lead to increased sales in the last year;
- 83% of Black, 86% Latino/Hispanic & 88% of Asian/Pacific Islander SBO said they saw significant boost in sales' and

WHEREAS parent company ByteDance is not likely to handover it's proprietary, intellectual property and the 6th largest social media app to the US;

US represents 12.3% of Tiktok's global userbase (US 150M, Indonesia 126M, Brazil 99M are top 3 out of 1.218B)' and

WHEREAS HR 7521 has been thoroughly rejected by several free-speech and civil-liberties organizations: American Civil Liberties Union, Center for Democracy & Technology, Electronic Frontier Foundation and Fight for the Future; and

WHEREAS in efforts to address Congress' concerns Tiktok invested \$1.5B in "Project Texas" a massive restructuring project in which all US user data was moved to Oracle's (an Austin TX based company) servers located on US soil; and

WHEREAS Our very own Representatives Suzanne Bonamici & Val Hoyle rightly voted against HR 7521; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Multnomah County strongly urges Congress to reject **HR 7520** and **HR 7521**.

On passage this resolution will be sent to:

Oregon's United States Senators
President Biden & Vice President Harris
Majority/Minority Leaders Schumer & McConnell
US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation Chair & Ranking
Member Cantwell & Cruz