Restore **the First**

A CITIZENS' COALITION FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT

29 November 2026 · Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives

Request for hearings — the censorship record, a correction, and a private right of action

Dear Committee Counsel,

A member of the Committee's staff referred me to his colleagues when he left in June. I am picking up a thread he opened with me on 9 June 2025, and making one request.

I will start with a correction, because you should know what kind of correspondent I am before you read the rest.

[One paragraph is withheld from this published version. It concerns a third party's live legal proceedings. It corrected statements made to Committee staff in August and October 2025, and was sent unprompted.]

I founded Restore the First (restorethe1st.com), a citizens' coalition for the First Amendment. It is twenty-one organizations and eight independent outlets, and it maintains the primary-document record behind the censorship of named Americans: a public targeting tracker, a docket of foreign-censorship cases, the funders record for the Center for Countering Digital Hate, and model statutory text for three federal bills.

The coalition is not asking Congress to agree with anything we publish. We are asking for a forum, for three reasons.

Americans who were censored have never testified. In Finn v. Global Engagement Center the court found that the pressure campaign "had its intended effect" and that "all twelve members were censored" — then dismissed the case before discovery. Zuckerberg has since said officials demanded Meta remove "anything that says that vaccines might have side effects." A judicial finding and a chief executive's admission now exist on the same record, and no censored American has ever been sworn in to describe what it cost them. We can supply witnesses with documents.

The record needs correcting under oath. The 2021 list of twelve Americans that platforms and senators acted on has never been examined by a committee. Its publisher has never been asked to produce its data. We have assembled what is auditable and published our own errors as we found them.

There is still no remedy. Murthy v. Missouri closed standing. Egbert v. Boule closed damages. Finn closed on procedure before the facts were heard. A finding with no cause of action is a press release. The First Amendment Remedies Act, which the coalition has drafted, would create a private right of action against federal officials who induce the suppression of lawful speech. That is the one piece Congress alone can supply, and it is the piece we are asking for.

Our request: a hearing in which censored Americans testify, the underlying list is examined, and a private right of action is considered. Short of that, twenty minutes with either of you to walk through the record and the draft text.

I am copying the staff member who has been on this thread since the beginning.

With respect,

Sayer Ji Founder, Restore the First restorethe1st.com

Public release note. This is the letter sent to Committee staff on 29 November 2026. The names and addresses of serving Committee staff are withheld, as is one paragraph concerning a third party's live legal proceedings. The text is otherwise unaltered. Restore the First is a coalition of twenty-one organizations and eight independent outlets. Listing does not imply endorsement of any litigation; every partner keeps its independence. restorethe1st.com · coalition@restorethe1st.com