

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9279

To provide for a right of action against Federal employees for violations of First Amendment rights relating to the use or development of artificial intelligence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2026

Ms. HAGEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for a right of action against Federal employees for violations of First Amendment rights relating to the use or development of artificial intelligence.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing AI Censor-
5 ship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RIGHT OF ACTION AGAINST FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**
2 **FOR VIOLATIONS OF FIRST AMENDMENT**
3 **RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO ARTIFICIAL IN-**
4 **TELLIGENCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—A Federal employee who, under
6 color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or
7 usage, of the United States, engages in covered conduct
8 thereby subjecting, or causing to be subjected, any citizen
9 of the United States to the deprivation of any rights, privi-
10 leges, or immunities secured by the First Amendment,
11 shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law,
12 suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

13 (b) EXCEPTION.—This Act does not authorize a Fed-
14 eral employee to bring a suit against their Federal em-
15 ployer or the Federal Government for conduct that is with-
16 in the scope of the employment relationship. Nothing in
17 this Act shall be construed to limit any otherwise lawful
18 law enforcement activity conducted pursuant to a valid
19 warrant, court order, or other judicial authorization.

20 (c) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—In any action or proceeding
21 to enforce this Act, the court, in its discretion, may allow
22 the prevailing party, other than the United States, a rea-
23 sonable attorney's fee as part of the costs.

24 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
25 may be construed to limit the ability of an injured party
26 to seek damages, injunctive relief, or any other form of

1 redress for the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or im-
2 munities secured by the First Amendment, or by any other
3 provision of the Constitution.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “Federal employee” means an in-
6 dividual, other than the President or the Vice Presi-
7 dent, who occupies a position in any agency or in-
8 strumentality of the executive branch (including any
9 independent agency).

10 (2) The term “artificial intelligence” has the
11 meaning as outlined in section 5002 of the National
12 Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15
13 U.S.C. 9401).

14 (3) The term “artificial intelligence provider”
15 means any person or entity that develops, deploys,
16 operates, hosts, or maintains artificial intelligence,
17 whether for compensation or without charge.

18 (4) The term “covered conduct” means—

19 (A) any action by a Federal employee to
20 coerce, compel, direct, induce, or encourage an
21 artificial intelligence provider to:

22 (i) ban, suppress, remove, alter, or
23 otherwise restrict content, outputs, or re-
24 sponses generated by artificial intelligence
25 based on viewpoint, partisan affiliation, re-

1 religious belief or practice, ideology, per-
2 ceived truth or falsity, or perceived bias;

3 (ii) modify the training data, model
4 weights, fine-tuning procedures, system
5 prompts, safety classifiers, or operational
6 parameters of artificial intelligence for the
7 purpose of filtering, distorting, or sup-
8 pressing expression based on viewpoint,
9 partisan affiliation, religious belief or prac-
10 tice, ideology, perceived truth or falsity, or
11 perceived bias;

12 (iii) deny, degrade, restrict, or alter
13 access to artificial intelligence, or provide a
14 materially inferior quality of service
15 through artificial intelligence, to any per-
16 son based on that person's viewpoint, polit-
17 ical affiliation, religious belief or practice,
18 ideology, perceived truth or falsity, or per-
19 ceived bias; or

20 (iv) collect, retain, report, or disclose
21 information about a user's prompts, que-
22 ries, or interactions with artificial intel-
23 ligence to any Federal agency or employee,
24 where such collection, retention, or disclo-
25 sure is undertaken for the purpose of, or

1 with the reasonably foreseeable effect of,
2 surveilling, chilling, or penalizing that
3 user’s lawful expression; or

4 (B) any action by a Federal employee to
5 directly interfere with an individual’s lawful use
6 of artificial intelligence.

7 (f) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act or
8 the application of a provision of this Act to any person
9 or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remain-
10 der of this Act, and the application of the provisions to
11 any person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

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