

HB 1144

Senate Judiciary Committee

**Testimony of Elizabeth McBeain, Student, University of Mary Social Work Program
Relating to protection from discrimination against racial, and religious viewpoint, and to
provide a penalty.**

March 16, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I am submitting my testimony today in favor of HB 1144 relating to the protection of free speech from racial, religious, and viewpoint discrimination by a social media platform or interactive computer system; and to provide a penalty. I am writing on behalf of myself and the effect that this bill has on so many in today's society.

The biggest issue with this bill is that of which this bill has had to be created. It is truly disheartening to know about the many men and women that fought so hard for the freedom of speech, race, religion, etc. and yet we are standing here today to gain this right back. I ask that you take the facts of past recent events of censorship regarding these specific topics into serious consideration. This censorship has affected our first amendment right, and by the pass of this bill it will then be regained.

One thing I hope you can take into careful consideration is the addition to this bill of censorship of pornography and spam content. As these are both huge aspects of social media platforms and interactive computer systems in today's society. This can then create a better censorship of content that can truly worsen the next generations of this country. Being that pornography, and spam/fraudulent ads are illegal these things should be censored. Rather than race, religious beliefs, and viewpoints.

I urge a “do pass” on HB 1144 regarding free speech and to give back our first amendment, but I also ask you take into consideration the censorship of the things against the law by which I have previously stated. I thank you for your time today and for your hard work to make this bill a reality.