



SUSAN B. ANTHONY
PRO-LIFE
AMERICA

June 28, 2023

Dear Members of the Oversight Board,

On behalf of our more than one million members from all 50 states, I write to urge you to uphold the right to free speech on Meta's platforms.

We are encouraged to see the Oversight Board reviewing posts related to abortion. While the three posts currently under review are not posts we would have published, none of them meet Meta's criteria for violence and incitement.

Simply discussing an act of violence – which is what abortion is – as the first post does, is not itself an act of violence. Abortion is inherently violent. No discussion of it can escape that fact.

The hostile speech classifier may not be able distinguish between the use of the word “kill” and an active threat, which raises the question: is it actually useful? However, it is more disturbing that human reviewers were unable to distinguish between the two and so many appeals were required to achieve justice.

Unfortunately, our posts, specifically ads and peer-reviewed research, have suffered similar censorship. Meta has been suppressing our posts since at least 2018, when informational videos telling the stories of Micah and Charlotte who were born at 22 weeks and 24 weeks, respectively, were removed from the platform, and going up to the present with a misleading “fact check” by Politifact on peer-reviewed data – data that is validated in the fact check itself.

The Charlotte and Micah posts were cited for “sensational/graphic content.” The content in question depicted babies in the NICU and the lifesaving care they received at so young an age. A 2019 educational campaign highlighting the benefits of adult stem cell transplants, which consisted mostly of interviews with doctors and patients, received the same citation. The capacity of modern medicine to treat these patients is remarkable, but to call it sensational denies the skill of the medical professionals involved.

In 2020 Meta banned two of SBA Pro-Life America's ads exposing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's support for late-term abortion in the key battleground states of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, based on a factually incorrect third-party “fact check” from The Dispatch. The Dispatch retracted its “partly false” rating on October 16th. Meta, however, did not remove the label until October 29th, following multiple inquiries from our team.


This March, Politifact issued its “fact check” – based mostly on the statements of a prominent abortion activist. By enabling such biased “fact checks,” Meta is taking sides and stifling the national conversation on abortion. Facebook should rectify this situation and review their fact checking process immediately.

While we are encouraged to see the Oversight Board taking steps in the right direction, there is still work to be done.

We appeal as Americans to the right to free speech, and as human beings to the right to tell the truth in defense of the powerless.

Attached, please find a timeline of Facebook censorship of SBA Pro-Life America and our sister organization Charlotte Lozier Institute's posts. We urge you to hold Meta accountable and keep Facebook open as a platform for free and fair debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie Dannenfelser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America

Timeline

October 2018: candidate ads and “Charlotte,” “Micah” ads removed.

- Facebook censors **Charlotte Lozier Institute** educational video on late-term abortion, featuring [Micah](#) Pickering, who was born at 22 weeks old.

Facebook cited violation of its policy against promoting sensational/graphic content.

- Facebook censors **Charlotte Lozier Institute** educational video on late-term abortion, featuring [Charlotte](#), who was born at 24 weeks old.

Facebook cited violation of its policy against promoting sensational/graphic content.

- Facebook censors **SBA List’s** “[Charlotte](#)” ad for the second time, for violation of its policy against promoting sensational/graphic content.

February 2019:

Facebook censors an **SBA List/Charlotte Lozier Institute** education campaign highlighting the benefits of adult stem cell transplants, stating that the video included “shocking, sensational, or excessively violent content, which could create an unexpected experience for users.”

October 2020:

Facebook bans two of **SBA List’s** ads exposing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris’s support for late-term abortion in the key battleground states of [Pennsylvania](#) and [Wisconsin](#), based on a factually incorrect third-party “fact check” from The Dispatch.

The Dispatch retracted its “partly false” rating on **SBA List’s** ads on October 16th.

Facebook, however, did not remove the label until October 29th, following multiple **SBA List** inquiries.

March 2023:

Facebook and **Politifact** “[fact check](#)” **Alliance Defending Freedom** and **SBA Pro-Life America**’s posts about abortion pill complications, rating them “partly false,” despite the fact that the Politifact affirms the statistic in its own article:

Researchers reported that about 20% of the women who took medication for their abortions experienced what the paper described as adverse events or complications.