

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4401

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reinstate the obligation of broadcast licensees to afford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of conflicting views on issues of public importance (commonly known as the “Fairness Doctrine”).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Ms. GABBARD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reinstate the obligation of broadcast licensees to afford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of conflicting views on issues of public importance (commonly known as the “Fairness Doctrine”).

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 “Restore the Fairness
5 Doctrine Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FAIRNESS DOCTRINE.**

2 Section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
3 U.S.C. 315) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (e)
5 as subsections (b) through (f), respectively; and

6 (2) by inserting before subsection (b), as so re-
7 designated, the following:

8 “(a) PUBLIC INTEREST OBLIGATION TO COVER PUB-
9 LICLY IMPORTANT ISSUES.—A broadcast licensee shall af-
10 ford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of con-
11 flicting views on issues of public importance. The enforce-
12 ment and application of the requirement imposed by this
13 subsection shall be consistent with the rules and policies
14 of the Commission in effect on January 1, 1987, including
15 sections 73.1920 and 73.1930 (relating to personal at-
16 tacks and political editorials, respectively) of title 47, Code
17 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on such date).”

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