

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2700

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an office on victims of media bias.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2001

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an office on victims of media bias.

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 “Ethnic, Minority, and
5 Gender Bias Clearinghouse Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ETHNIC AND MINORITY AF-**
7 **FAIRS SECTION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Communications
9 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 155) is amended by inserting after
10 subsection (e) the following new subsection:

1 “(f) OFFICE ON VICTIMS OF MEDIA BIAS.—

2 “(1) OFFICE REQUIRED.—There shall be estab-
3 lished within the Commission an office on victims of
4 media bias. For the purposes of this subsection, the
5 term ‘victims of media bias’ includes persons or
6 groups who have been or may be discriminated
7 against in their depiction or employment in broad-
8 casting based on their race, ethnicity, religion, sex,
9 sexual orientation, disability, age, or other char-
10 acteristic.

11 “(2) FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE.—The office on
12 victims of media bias shall—

13 “(A) establish a clearinghouse for com-
14 plaints, grievances, and opinions relating to
15 radio, television, and cable television broadcast
16 programming and their depiction of victims of
17 media bias;

18 “(B) collect, analyze, and prepare informa-
19 tion from public and private agencies relating to
20 the portrayal of victims of media bias by radio,
21 television, and cable television broadcast enter-
22 tainment and news programming, and furnish
23 such information, upon request and without
24 charge, to public and private agencies that
25 serve the needs and interests of such victims;

1 “(C) collect, analyze, and prepare informa-
2 tion from public and private agencies relating to
3 the employment of victims of media bias in the
4 production of radio, television, and cable tele-
5 vision broadcast entertainment and news pro-
6 gramming, and furnish such information on the
7 Internet, and upon request and without charge,
8 to public and private agencies that serve the
9 needs and interests of such victims;

10 “(D) conduct an annual conference which
11 shall be designed to focus public attention upon
12 the images of victims of media bias depicted by
13 radio, television, and cable television broadcast
14 programming, discuss the impact which these
15 images have on such victims, and encourage the
16 participation of such individuals and public and
17 private organizations that serve the interests of
18 such victims; and

19 “(E) prepare and transmit to Congress an
20 annual report which details the activities of the
21 office on victims of media bias, including a com-
22 pilation of all complaints, grievances, and opin-
23 ions filed under paragraph (A).

24 “(3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE REQUIRED.—The
25 chairman of the Commission shall establish an advi-

1 sory committee to assist the office on victims of
2 media bias in implementing the annual conference
3 pursuant to paragraph (1)(D). The advisory com-
4 mittee shall be composed of 15 members chosen
5 from among radio and television broadcasters and
6 program producers, educators, representatives from
7 the mental health community, and leaders from com-
8 munities of victims of media bias.”.

9 (b) TIME LIMIT.—Not later than 90 days after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall estab-
11 lish the office referred to in section 5(f) of the Commu-
12 nications Act of 1934 as amended by this Act.

13 **SEC. 3. SAVINGS PROVISION.**

14 Nothing in this Act shall authorize or allow the Fed-
15 eral Communications Commission or any other govern-
16 ment agency to regulate or otherwise control the content
17 of news or entertainment programming on radio, tele-
18 vision, cable television, or in print media. This Act in no
19 way is intended to diminish the protection of free speech
20 and the press guaranteed under the First Amendment to
21 the Constitution of the United States.

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