

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 226

To prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating
the fairness doctrine.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2009

Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DREIER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORBES, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MACK, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. McKEON, Mr. MICA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the fol-

lowing bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prevent the Federal Communications Commission from
repromulgating 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 “Broadcaster Freedom
5 Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAIRNESS DOCTRINE PROHIBITED.**

7 Title III of the Communications Act of 1934 is
8 amended by inserting after section 303 (47 U.S.C. 303)
9 the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 303A. LIMITATION ON GENERAL POWERS: FAIRNESS**
11 **DOCTRINE.**

12 “Notwithstanding section 303 or any other provision
13 of this Act or any other Act authorizing the Commission
14 to prescribe rules, regulations, policies, doctrines, stand-
15 ards, or other requirements, the Commission shall not
16 have the authority to prescribe any rule, regulation, policy,
17 doctrine, standard, or other requirement that has the pur-
18 pose or effect of reinstating or repromulgating (in whole
19 or in part) the requirement that broadcasters present op-

1 posing viewpoints on controversial issues of public impor-
2 tance, commonly referred to as the ‘Fairness Doctrine’,
3 as repealed in General Fairness Doctrine Obligations of
4 Broadcast Licensees, 50 Fed. Reg. 35418 (1985).’.

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