Survey Reveals Strong Opposition to Government Influence on Social Media Content

The CCIA Research Center commissioned a survey by Sachs Media of 1,130 American adults to measure perceptions of legislation that would grant the government increased control over online speech and force digital services to display even third-party content that violates their agreements with users. Fortunately, the First Amendment prevents the government from forcing private businesses to display speech, allowing companies to decide what content should appear on their platforms and better protect people from fraud or dangerous content.

CCIA co-filed two federal lawsuits challenging laws that would increase government control over online speech, and several lower courts have ruled those measures unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear the cases on February 26 – NetChoice & CCIA v. Moody, which challenges Florida SB 7072, and NetChoice & CCIA v. Paxton challenging Texas HB 20.

The voice of the American public is clear: Government should stay out of regulating social media content

- **Governments should not control speech online**: More than half of Americans oppose allowing governments to have increased control over online speech – 54%

- **Companies should have more control over their platforms than the federal government**: 86% of Americans say the federal government should not have more control over social media content than companies that own the platform – 86%

- **Upholding the First Amendment is more important than regulating content**: 60% percent of Americans said courts should protect the First Amendment online – even when content is distasteful – 60%

- **States are even less favored to control online content**: 92% of Americans rank state governments last compared to other entities (companies, users and federal government) when asked who should have more content control – 92%