



October 29, 2020

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

I'm writing to inform you that The Heritage Foundation is returning the \$150,000 donation we received from Facebook. We cannot in good conscience accept money from a company that repeatedly and blatantly targets conservative speech on your platform.

As you know, we have worked closely with Facebook in the past to address legitimate complaints about bias against conservatives in how your company enforces its community standards. This work has borne no fruit. If anything, the situation has gone from bad to worse.

I've already written you to express my outrage at Facebook's recklessly partisan decision to block the sharing of a major article published by one of the nation's oldest newspapers simply because it posed a risk to Joe Biden's candidacy.

The Heritage Foundation has all too often fallen victim to Facebook's double standard. Referrals to our Daily Signal news site, for example, have plunged from 600,000 sessions in July to a mere 105,000 so far in October. What explanation is there other than an attempt to block a respected conservative news outlet from reaching Facebook users? We've also fallen victim to supposedly unbiased third-party fact-checkers that Facebook now uses as gatekeepers to content.

Every time a new form of censorship comes to light, your company apologizes and promises to do better. Enough with the apologies. Fix it.

As you know, there is a growing momentum in Washington to rein in Google and other technology companies, either through antitrust action or changes in liability protections you enjoy. Heritage is in the midst of reviewing these proposals, and the last thing we need is for anyone to think that our conclusions have in any way been influenced by a relatively small donation from your company.

I must say that I'm deeply saddened by these developments. Facebook showed such great promise as a platform for the free exchange of ideas. But your company has squandered this by letting your employees censor views they don't like.

Until that changes, The Heritage Foundation will no longer be able to accept donations from Facebook.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay C. James".

Kay C. James
President