



October 19, 2023

The Honorable Joe Manchin
The United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin,

I am writing on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia (ACLU-WV). The mission of the ACLU is to protect and defend the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and particularly the Bill of Rights. In this spirit, I am writing to ask you to oppose a national ban on TikTok.

TikTok is one of the largest social media platforms in America, with over 150 million Americans frequently using the platform. Whether it's through the messaging feature on TikTok, sending videos to peers, posting videos, or simply engaging on the app, TikTok is a tool that facilitates communication and expression.

The First Amendment must protect modern channels of expression. Banning TikTok would be a direct violation of the Constitution and our rights as Americans.

It can sometimes be difficult to find or socialize with people with the same interests and values. TikTok is a great way to enjoy the fundamental right of freedom of association, find a community, and communicate with them no matter where they are located.

In the age of technology, it is essential for lawmakers to evolve with their constituents. Social media plays a major role in staying proactive and engaged with the people you represent.

Countless young adults use TikTok as a means of expression and communication. This is the same generation that will be making the decisions in future elections. It's incredibly important for lawmakers to consider how a ban could impact so many young people's lives.

I urge you to stand firm on constitutional principles, reject fearmongering rhetoric and oppose any ban on TikTok.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eli Baumwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eli Baumwell
(he/him)
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ACLU of West Virginia
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