

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.

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## 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

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## 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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