

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.360

Reps. Kuppa, Hood, Neeley, Rabhi, LaGrand and Brenda Carter offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge Congress to pass legislation to counter  
2 the threat of online disinformation.

3       Whereas, Online platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and many  
4 others have become part of our everyday lives. While the benefits  
5 of social connection are many, we cannot ignore the harm done to  
6 our society, climate, and health as a result of disinformation  
7 spread across online platforms; and

8       Whereas, Disinformation, which is intentionally false  
9 information spread with the purpose of deceit, causes individuals  
10 to make decisions outside of their best interests. Certain groups,  
11 such as seniors, children, and adolescents, may be more vulnerable  
12 to disinformation. As such, we must challenge those who allow the

1 spread of false and manipulative messaging; and

2       Whereas, We have seen firsthand how the spread of  
3 disinformation has caused negative consequences in the real world.  
4 The rejection of scientific evidence related to the COVID-19  
5 pandemic led to low vaccination rates. Further, individuals have  
6 denied the consequences of climate change, while our globe  
7 continues to face extreme climate events. In many cases,  
8 disinformation has escalated to violence and death threats. Many of  
9 the messages that caused these outcomes were spread across online  
10 platforms with little oversight; and

11       Whereas, Conspiracies rooted in disinformation have misled  
12 individuals into questioning the integrity of our elections.  
13 Numerous audits following the most recent presidential election  
14 concluded there was no factual basis for claims of election fraud.  
15 Yet, election disinformation persists, demonstrating that  
16 widespread disinformation has eroded our society's ability to  
17 critically think and assess the validity of a source or statement,  
18 and demonstrating the creators of disinformation currently face no  
19 consequences for their actions; and

20       Whereas, Election disinformation is even more dangerous when  
21 perpetuated by elected officials who create fake crises to support  
22 their unnecessary and harmful policies, or to gain support for  
23 their election campaigns. Or worse, using such false information on  
24 social media platforms to incite violence. Such actions spurred an  
25 attempted coup after our free and fair election at the US Capitol  
26 on January 6, 2021, creating a serious threat to the foundation of  
27 our democracy; and

28       Whereas, As our society continues to progress and modernize,  
29 so must our elections. In order to make elections more inclusive

1 and accessible for voters, we must prevent the spread of  
2 disinformation. Penalizing those spreading disinformation, and  
3 removing disinformation from public view, will ensure individuals  
4 will not fall victim to unsupported claims and will improve trust  
5 in elections and in government; and

6       Whereas, Disinformation also erodes the ability to develop an  
7 accurate understanding of our country's history. Those who spread  
8 disinformation wish to erase the past crimes and mistakes of the  
9 United States' past, thus attempting to erase groups who have been  
10 historically and systemically oppressed. Without an understanding  
11 of our past, we will never find future successes; and

12       Whereas, Twitter, Facebook, and other online platforms create  
13 and enforce their own policies regarding disinformation. Allowing  
14 these platforms to do such with minimal or no external oversight  
15 leads to inconsistent enforcement of community standards, a lack of  
16 transparency, and the continued spread of disinformation; and

17       Whereas, The Digital Services and Oversight Safety Act would  
18 require transparency from online platforms, ensure researchers are  
19 able to access the data they need to study the impact of these  
20 platforms, and offer and improve whistleblower protections for  
21 employees. Doing such would allow us to hold online platforms  
22 accountable for their actions and prevent further harm done by the  
23 spreading of disinformation; now, therefore, be it

24       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge  
25 Congress to pass legislation to counter the threat of online  
26 disinformation; and be it further

27       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
28 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
29 States House of Representatives, and members of the Michigan

**1** congressional delegation.