

**Facebook Shareholder Meeting**  
**Shareholder Question**  
**Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director**  
**The National Center for Public Policy Research, June 20, 2016**

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, and I have a comment and a question.

First, I applaud the investors who voted against Proposal 11 as it was designed to limit Facebook's free speech rights. And my question is about free speech and the company's treatment of conservatives.

This is a multifaceted problem, but it boils down to one core issue – and that is transparency. Unless and until the company is completely transparent as to how it selects trending news items and why it removes certain posts, many conservative individuals and organizations will rightly feel that the company has treated them unfairly.

Even when you include a conservative story in the trending news section, Facebook's bias is often evident. For example, when pro-life actress Patricia Heaton tweeted her support of a crisis pregnancy center, Facebook's trending news curator headlined the item, "Patricia Heaton: Actress Shares ANTI-ABORTION Message, Says 'Support Life.'"<sup>i</sup> That's an outrageous characterization. This incident happened after your so-called summit with conservative leaders. And I have collected dozens more incidents of continued anti-conservative bias since that meeting.

Whether you're willing to admit the company has a bias problem or if you think bias is merely a matter of perception, the fact is that perception is very often reality. Facebook has an extra duty to overcome this problem now that the company has been called out by former employees for targeting conservatives.

My question is this: what affirmative steps are in place to increase transparency regarding Facebook's news section and its removal of pages and posts, and what do you have to say to the conservative individuals and groups who have been harmed – and continue to be harmed – by the company's bias actions?

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/20/facebook-treatment-patricia-heaton-highlights-bias/>