

# If Congress Doesn't Rein In Big Tech, Censors Will Eliminate The Right

Something both convoluted and disturbing happened on Twitter this week that illustrates why it's not enough for lawmakers in Washington to haul Big Tech executives before congressional committees every now and then and give them a good talking to.

Congress actually has to do something about this. Regulating social media giants like Twitter and Facebook as common carriers, prohibiting them from censoring under the absurd pretext that speech they don't like is "harmful" or "abusive," would be a good place to start. If that doesn't happen, Twitter will eventually ban every conservative voice and every media outlet that dares to challenge left-wing pieties about race, gender, and a host of other issues.

Here's what happened. On Wednesday evening, around the time Twitter [began censoring Federalist articles](#) by appending a warning they "may be unsafe" and their contents could be "violent or misleading," I got a notice from Twitter support letting me know that someone had complained about a tweet of mine noting that Rachel Levine, the U.S. assistant secretary for health, is a man.

As a result, my tweet would be banned, but only in Germany, where, according to [Twitter's explanation](#) of what it calls, "country withheld content," an "authorized entity" issued a "valid legal demand" to block my tweet.



Hello,

We have received a complaint regarding your account, @johnddavidson, for the following content.

Tweet ID: 1506414978521313283

Tweet Text: Which makes no sense bc Levine is obviously a man—a man who dresses like a woman, but a man nonetheless. [url]

In accordance with applicable law and our policies, Twitter is now withholding the above content in Germany.

For more information on our Country Withheld Content policy please see this page: <https://support.twitter.com/articles/20169222>.

Sincerely,

Twitter

I had written the tweet in response to news this week that Twitter locked the account of Charlie Kirk for saying Levine is a man. Banning Kirk made no sense, I wrote, because Levine “is obviously a man — a man who dresses like a woman, but a man nonetheless.”

To be clear, Levine is a 64-year-old man who spent the first 54 years of his life “presenting” or living publicly as a man. He was married and fathered two children. In 2011, he decided to “transition” and began

dressing and presenting as a woman, changing his name to Rachel Levine (previously, he went by Richard, his given name). He divorced his wife of 25 years in 2013.

Levine is and will always be a man. His story is a sad one, and far from mocking or berating him, conservatives should pray for him and hope that he gets the help he obviously needs.

But none of this is really about Levine. It's about Twitter. Twitter locked Kirk's account after it [locked the account of The Babylon Bee](#) earlier this week for posting [an article](#) headlined, "The Babylon Bee's Man of the Year is Rachel Levine," riffing on [an actual USA Today piece](#) naming Levine as one of its 2022 women of the year, despite the fact that Levine is a man.

After Twitter locked out the Bee, which is a satirical publication, its Editor in Chief Kyle Mann tweeted, "Maybe they'll let us back into our @TheBabylonBee Twitter account if we throw a few thousand Uighurs in a concentration camp," which prompted Twitter to lock Mann's account for "hatful conduct." Later, the Bee's founder Adam Ford was locked out of Twitter for retweeting Mann.

While all this was going on, articles at The Federalist suddenly started getting blocked by Twitter. There seemed to be no rhyme or reason to the handful of articles that were blocked, but it started with [an article by Libby Emmons](#) published Wednesday morning entitled, "Everybody Knows Rachel Levine Is Truly A Man, Including Rachel Levine."



## Warning: this link may be unsafe

<https://thefederalist.com/2022/03/23/everybody-knows-rachel-levine-is-truly-a-man-including-rachel-levine/>

The link you are trying to access has been identified by Twitter or our partners as being potentially spammy or unsafe, in accordance with Twitter's [URL Policy](#). This link could fall into any of the below categories:

- malicious links that could steal personal information or harm electronic devices
- spammy links that mislead people or disrupt their experience
- violent or misleading content that could lead to real-world harm
- certain categories of content that, if posted directly on Twitter, are a violation of the [Twitter Rules](#)

[Back to previous page](#)

Ignore this warning and [continue](#)

When my colleague Tristan Justice [asked Twitter about it](#), a spokesperson told him, “the URLs referenced were mistakenly marked under our unsafe links policy — this action has been reversed.” Nothing to see here, it was all just a big mistake!

But we all know it wasn't. It was no more a mistake than my tweet getting flagged in Germany, of all places, or Kirk and Mann and Ford and the Bee all getting locked out of their accounts. This kind of behavior from social media companies has become all too common for anyone to believe that getting locked out of your account or getting an article taken down is ever a mistake, and certainly not when the tweet or article in question is asserting the plain truth that a man does not become a woman simply by growing his hair out and putting on a skirt. When your account is locked over *that*, it's on purpose, and the point is to shut you up.

And it's not just Twitter. This week, YouTube [removed a bunch of videos](#) from the recent Conservative Political Action Conference, including a speech by J.D. Vance and a panel discussion with Federalist CEO Sean Davis, Rachel Bovard, and Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla. — a

panel discussion that happened to be about *the harms of Big Tech and how federal law protects them from liability*.



**Rep Andy Biggs** ✓  
@RepAndyBiggsAZ



### IMPORTANT THREAD:

@YouTube recently removed all Saturday and Sunday @CPAC speeches.

This is over half of the entire conference.

Below are the names of the individuals who were censored by @YouTube:

The screenshot shows a tweet thread with a black background and white text. The text is organized into three columns. The first column lists '5 former US Ambassadors' and '2 people rumored to be running for President'. The second column lists '15 activists fighting on the most important issues of the day'. The third column lists 'Others'.

5 former US Ambassadors	15 activists fighting on the most important issues of the day	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Bill Hagerty (Japan)</li><li>o Morse Tan (At Large of Global Criminal Justice)</li><li>o Lynda Blanchard (Slovenia)</li><li>o Carla Sands (Denmark)</li><li>o Lana Marks (South Africa)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Matt Schlapp</li><li>o Mercy Schlapp</li><li>o Dan Schneider</li><li>o Ian Prior</li><li>o Amanda Millius</li><li>o Will Hild</li><li>o Justin Danhof</li><li>o Jack Brewer</li><li>o Robert Malone</li><li>o Brooke Miller</li><li>o Peter McCullough</li><li>o Pam Bondi</li><li>o Kash Patel</li><li>o Anne Bayefsky</li><li>o Julie Strauss Levin</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Donald Tru</li><li>o Lee Green</li><li>o Ronna McD</li><li>o Kurt Schlic</li><li>o Monica Cro</li><li>o Mike Wilke</li><li>o JD Vance,</li><li>o TW Shanne</li><li>o Lee Smith,</li><li>o Kari Lake,</li><li>o James Car</li><li>o Lou Holtz,</li><li>o Deal Hudse</li><li>o Dr. Oz, phy</li><li>o Charlie Ge</li><li>o Charles He</li><li>o Eric Schmi</li><li>o Jim McLau</li></ul>

3:17 PM · Mar 24, 2022 · Twitter Web App

It's obvious that these firms will eventually silence everyone who dissents from their woke ideology. They're not even trying to hide it

anymore. If you say that Rachel Levine is a man, or that Lia Thomas, the University of Pennsylvania swimmer who just won an NCAA Division I national championship, is a man, they will come after you. It doesn't matter that Levine and Thomas are in fact men. Truth is no defense against censorship by Big Tech.

So until Congress — under what would have to be a Republican majority, given Democrats' enthusiasm for online censorship — acts to put an end to this, it will continue. And the list of things you can't say will grow. Before long, you won't be able to say, for example, that abortion is the taking of a human life, that gay marriage is not the same as marriage between a man and a woman, or that children should not be taught that America is systemically racist.

In such an environment, the only way to ensure the censors don't come after you is to follow the extraordinary example of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who was asked by Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., on Tuesday during the confirmation hearing to define the word "woman." Jackson replied, infamously, "I'm not a biologist."

---

*John Daniel Davidson is a senior editor at The Federalist. His writing has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the Claremont Review of Books, The New York Post, and elsewhere. Follow him on Twitter, @johnddavidson.*