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Turning Point USA Refuses to Pull Speaker Pelosi's 'Speech Ripping' Video from Social Media

Speaker Pelosi's Office Joins Congressional Democrats in Calls for Twitter and Facebook to Censor Viral Video Following POTUS Tweet

PHOENIX, Feb. 10, 2020 — Following President Trump's State of the Union address, in which Speaker Pelosi ripped apart a copy of the president's speech, Freedom Fights (a Turning Point USA Facebook and Instagram channel) released a video juxtaposing the human stories highlighted by the president with the Speaker's highly publicized act of ripping the president's speech in two.

The video has since gone viral and has been viewed across social channels over 20 million times. This has led to multiple demands from Speaker Pelosi's office as well as other members of Congress for Facebook and Twitter to remove Turning Point USA's video from those platforms completely.

Many media outlets have joined the chorus. *Business Insider* called it "doctored"; *Mashable* referred to it as "deceptively edited"; and the *Washington Post* said it highlighted a "gray area in the debate over disinformation".

"This is cancel culture coming to Congress," says Charlie Kirk, founder and president of TPUSA. "Our Turning Point USA production team had the brilliant idea to make a visually moving clip of what Speaker Pelosi was ripping up when she tore up the president's speech. There was absolutely nothing deceptive about the video. We've been surprised, and frankly horrified, by the many Democrats calling for censorship including from the speaker's own office. Thankfully, many patriots have come out and reposted the video including the president. Needless to say, we will not be pulling the video and the Speaker's misguided attempts at silencing us have had the exact opposite effect."

TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

The video was originally posted on the [Freedom Fights Facebook and Instagram pages on Wednesday, Feb. 5.](#)

It was then [reposted by Donald Trump Jr.](#)

Then the president reposted it on [Instagram](#). The next day, [he tweeted it](#).

Soon after the president posted the video to Twitter, Speaker Pelosi's team began demanding the video be removed from social media.

Speaker Pelosi's Deputy Chief of Staff Drew Hammill, [stated on Twitter](#):

"The latest fake video of Speaker Pelosi is deliberately designed to mislead and lie to the American people, and every day that these platforms refuse to take it down is another reminder that they care more about their shareholders' interests than the public's interests."

Andy Stone with Facebook's communication's [team replied](#):

"Sorry, are you suggesting the President didn't make those remarks and the Speaker didn't rip the speech?"

Pelosi Deputy Chief of Staff replied back:

"What planet are you living on? this is deceptively altered. take it down."

Other Democrats joined in:

[Rep. Veronica Escobar](#) (D-Texas):

"This video is clearly another deceptive effort by @realDonaldTrump to mislead and manipulate the American people, Hey @jack , show your commitment to cut down on the misinformation corroding our nation and take down this fake video."

[Rep. Ro Khanna](#), (D- California)

"@Twitter must take this misleading video about @SpeakerPelosi down now. Social media platforms are a place where people come for news & information. They need to have certain standards. Falsity has never been part of our 1st Amendment tradition."

[Rep. Don Beyer](#) (D- Virginia)

"This video is doctored. It has been up, and pinned to the President's page, for nearly a day.

Trump posted it to deceive Americans about @SpeakerPelosi's actions and record. If I posted a doctored video it would be a clear violation House Rules. @Twitter should take this down."

[Rep. David Cicilline](#) (D- Rhode Island)

"Hey @Twitter, this video is clearly edited in a way that's intended to mislead viewers. You should take it down. "

TPUSA Chief Creative Officer Benny Johnson [responded in a thread](#) and in [an op-ed](#) saying in part: “*Pelosi and her foot soldiers in Congress feign outrage and call President Trump an authoritarian, when in reality it is they who cannot resist the tyrannical impulse to control, censor and silence. But this is the digital age. Instead of burning books, they're banning videos.*”

Thankfully, we live in America where we have a right and a duty to hold the powerful accountable. We must protect that.”

Since the controversy, the views of the “speech-ripping” video have accelerated. The video has 10 million views on Twitter alone with notable conservative leaders coming out publicly in support including Rep. [Mark Meadows](#), White House Director of Social Media [Dan Scavino](#), and FCC Commissioner [Brendan Carr](#).

About Turning Point USA

Turning Point USA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2012 by Charlie Kirk who was only 19 at the time. The organization’s mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government. Since its founding Turning Point USA has embarked on a mission to build the most organized, active, and powerful conservative grassroots activist network on college campuses across the country. With a presence on over 2,000 college and high school campuses across the country, Turning Point USA is the largest and fastest-growing youth organization in America.

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