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David Yerushalmi, Esq. (Cal. St. Bar No. 132011)

AMERICAN FREEDOM LAW CENTER

8950 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 193 Beverly Hills, California 90211-3565 Tel: (646) 262-0500; Fax: (801) 760-3901

Tel: (646) 262-0500; Fax: (801) 760-39 dyerushalmi@aflc.us

Counsel for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

Colleen Huber,

Plaintiff,

v.

Joseph Biden, Jr., in his official capacity as President of the United States of America; Twitter, Inc.; Jack Dorsey, in his official capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Twitter and in his individual capacity; and John Doe(s), in their official capacity as officials in the White House and in their individual capacities,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 3:21-cv-06580-EMC

FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Colleen Huber ("Plaintiff" or "Dr. Huber"), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, by and through undersigned counsel, brings this First Amended Complaint against the above-named Defendants, their employees, agents, and successors in office, and in support thereof alleges the following based upon her own personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts, together with information and belief as to all other matters, which in turn are based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by and through her attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of public reporting and other public documents.

INTRODUCTION

1. This case, at its core, is a civil conspiracy between and among Defendants to deprive Plaintiff and a class of private citizens who are similarly situated of their fundamental

rights protected by the U.S. Constitution.

- 2. It is a federal civil rights class action in which Plaintiff, for herself and others similarly situated, seeks to be free from unlawful discrimination based upon her and their respective political beliefs and views and her and their respective beliefs and views on public issues and matters of public concern.
- 3. Defendants Twitter and Dorsey, conspiring and operating jointly with Defendants Biden and other federal government officials in the Biden Administration (Defendant John Doe(s)), are engaging in viewpoint discrimination—the most egregious form of content discrimination—in violation of the First and Fifth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- 4. Plaintiff seeks, *inter alia*, declaratory and injunctive relief, declaring unconstitutional and enjoining Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which permits Defendants Dorsey and Twitter to engage in government-sanctioned discrimination and the suppression of free speech. Plaintiff seeks to prevent Section 230 from being used as a "sword" to suppress speech and as a "shield" from liability in this and similar litigation.
- 5. Plaintiff seeks a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining Defendants from unlawfully suspending Plaintiff's, and all others similarly situated, Twitter accounts, as set forth in this First Amended Complaint. Plaintiff, on her behalf and all those similarly situated, also seeks nominal and compensatory damages against certain Defendants and reasonable costs and fees, including reasonable attorneys' fees as against all Defendants.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 7. Plaintiff's claims for declaratory and injunctive relief are authorized by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, by Rules 57 and 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and by the general legal and equitable powers of this Court.
- 8. Venue is appropriate in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and (e)(1) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claim occurred in this district.

PARTIES

- 9. Plaintiff Colleen Huber is a United States citizen who resides in Maricopa County, Arizona. She is a naturopathic medical doctor licensed in Arizona for fourteen years.
- 10. Plaintiff utilizes social media platforms, including Twitter, to share her medical knowledge and engage in other forms of free speech.
- 11. Defendant Twitter is a privately-owned, Delaware corporation with its principal office in San Francisco, California.
 - 12. Defendant Twitter hosts the social media platform www.twitter.com.
- 13. Defendant Jack Dorsey was at all times relevant to this First Amended Complaint Chief Executive Officer of Twitter and its controlling shareholder. He is sued in both his official and his individual capacities.
- 14. Defendant President Biden was at all times relevant to this First Amended Complaint, and remains so today, the President of the United States of America and as such is the highest supervisory official of the Executive Branch of the federal government and directs and ultimately controls the actions of Defendant John Doe(s) conducted in and during the ordinary course of administration business.
- 15. Defendant John Doe(s) were at all times relevant to this First Amended Complaint officials in the White House who conspired and/or engaged in joint action with Twitter individually and collectively at the behest of Defendant President Biden and on his behalf to deprive Plaintiff and all others similarly situated of their fundamental rights. Defendant John Doe(s) are sued in both their official and individual capacities.
- 16. The true names and addresses of the defendants sued herein as John Doe(s) are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. If necessary, Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend this First Amended Complaint to state the John Does' true names when they are discovered.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Twitter—A Forum for Speech

17. The Internet is an international network of interconnected computers. It is a

unique and relatively new medium of worldwide human communication.

- 18. Anyone with access to the Internet may take advantage of a wide variety of communication and information retrieval methods. These methods are constantly evolving and difficult to categorize precisely. All of these methods can be used to transmit text; most, like Twitter, can transmit sound, pictures, and moving video images. Taken together, these tools constitute a unique medium—known to its users as "cyberspace"—located in no particular geographical location but available to anyone situated anywhere in the world with access to the Internet.
- 19. At any given time, millions of users are engaging in conversations on a huge range of subjects. It is no exaggeration to state that the content on the Internet is as diverse as human thought.
- 20. The Internet is thus comparable, from the user's viewpoint, to a vast library including millions of readily available and indexed publications, a sprawling mall offering goods and services, or a vast public forum providing an opportunity to speak and/or learn about issues of great public concern. Thus, the Internet constitutes a vast platform and forum from which to address and hear from a world-wide audience of hundreds of millions of speakers, readers, viewers, researchers, sellers, and consumers.
- 21. This dynamic, multifaceted category of communication includes not only traditional print and news services, but also audio, video, and still images, as well as interactive, real-time dialogue.
- 22. Through the use of Twitter, any person with access to the Internet can become a town crier with a voice that resonates farther than it could from any soapbox.
 - 23. Through the use of Twitter, the same individual can become a pamphleteer.
- 24. In sum, the Internet has become the new marketplace of ideas and one with a global and instantaneous reach.
- 25. Today, the impact of the Internet as a medium of worldwide human communication cannot be overstated.
 - 26. Consequently, social media, particularly including Twitter, is exceedingly

important for worldwide human communication and thus provides important forums for that communication.

27. As, as stated by the U.S. Supreme Court:

While in the past there may have been difficulty in identifying the most important places (in a spatial sense) for the exchange of views, today the answer is clear. It is cyberspace—the "vast democratic forums of the Internet" in general, and social media in particular. . . . In short, social media users employ these websites to engage in a wide array of protected First Amendment activity on topics "as diverse as human thought."

Packingham v. N.C., 137 S. Ct. 1730, 1735-36 (2017) (citations omitted).

- 28. Unlike the conditions that prevailed when Congress first authorized regulation of the broadcast spectrum, the Internet can hardly be considered a "scarce" expressive commodity. It provides relatively unlimited, low-cost capacity for communication of all kinds.
- 29. Denying a person access to this important social media forum based on the content and viewpoint of the person's speech on matters of public concern is an effective way of silencing or censoring speech and depriving the person or organization of political influence and business opportunities.
- 30. Due to the importance of social media to political, social, and commercial exchanges, the censorship at issue in this First Amended Complaint is an unmatched form of censorship.
- 31. Consequently, there is no basis for qualifying the level of First Amendment scrutiny that should be applied in this case.

Censorship of Plaintiff and Those Similarly Situated

- 32. Dr. Huber is an avid Twitter user who uses social media to exercise her First Amendment rights to her 19,000 followers (individuals who get updates on her Twitter posts).
- 33. On her Twitter account, and prior to the censorship set forth herein, Dr. Huber posted her opinions on a broad spectrum of matters, including her viewpoint on current events and politics. She sought, and continues to desire to share, information, informed by her medical background, to her followers.

34. On or about February 19, 2021, Dr. Huber posted a quote from a news article to her Twitter account. The Tweet was as follows:



Colleen Huber, NMD

@ColleenHuberNMD

Infectious disease team: [Pfizer's experimental shot causes] "mortality hundreds of times greater in young people compared to mortality from coronavirus without the #vaccine, and dozens of times more in the elderly." https://[...]

35. The Tweet contained a quote from a news article from a reputable Israeli news source, Arutz Sheva (Israel National News). The article is available at https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297051 (last visited May 24, 2021).

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36. Shortly after posting the Tweet, Dr. Huber received the following email:



Hello Colleen Huber, NMD,

Your account, ColleenHuberNMD has been suspended for violating the <u>Twitter Rules</u>.

Specifically, for:

<u>Violating our policy on spreading misleading</u> <u>and potentially harmful information related to</u> <u>COVID-19.</u>

We understand that during times of crisis and instability, it is difficult to know what to do to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. Under this policy, we require the removal of content that may pose a risk to people's health, including content that goes directly against guidance from authoritative sources of global and local public health information.

For more information on COVID-19, as well as guidance from leading global health authorities, please refer to the following links:

 $\underline{\text{Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public}} \\ \underline{\text{from the WHO}}$

FAQs about COVID-19 from the WHO



Colleen Huber, NMD

@ColleenHuberNMD

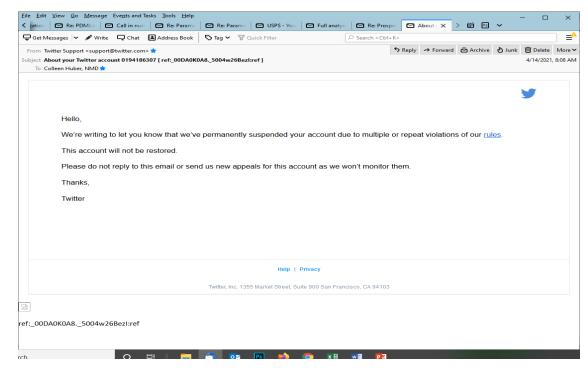
Infectious disease team: [Pfizer's experimental shot causes] "mortality hundreds of times greater in young people compared to mortality from coronavirus without the #vaccine, and dozens of times more in the elderly." https://[...]

Note that if you attempt to evade a permanent suspension by creating new accounts, we will suspend your new accounts. If you wish to appeal this suspension, please contact our <u>support team</u>.

37. The Twitter email, which was an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy between and among Defendants as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, informed Dr. Huber that her

Twitter account had been suspended indefinitely because she allegedly violated "Twitter Rules" by "[v]iolating [Twitter's] policy on spreading misleading and potentially harmful information related to COVID-19" ("Twitter COVID-19 Policy").

- 38. The enforcement of the Twitter COVID-19 Policy against Plaintiff was in furtherance of the conspiracy between and among Defendants to silence Plaintiffs and others who engage in speech with which Defendants disagree.
- 39. Dr. Huber immediately began the appeal process. However, Twitter responded by informing her in an email, which was an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy between and among Defendants as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, that she had been permanently suspended and that Twitter would entertain no appeals. That email is as follows:



- 40. In furtherance of the conspiracy between and among Defendants as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, Dr. Huber has been locked out of her Twitter account since February 19, 2021. She cannot post to her followers. She cannot share any content with her followers. She is prohibited from doing anything on Twitter except viewing other people's and organizations' pages.
 - 41. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, Dr. Huber's suspension from Twitter

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was an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy and/or joint action between Twitter and unknown officials in the White House, sued herein as John Doe(s), who have engaged in the unlawful conduct alleged herein pursuant to their official government capacities under the direction and, ultimately, control of Defendant President Biden.

- 42. Prior to Dr. Huber's suspension from Twitter, unknown White House officials, in their official capacities, spoke to, conspired and agreed with, Twitter to "clamp[] down on COVID misinformation and getting their help stop it from going viral." See to https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-white-house-exclus/exclusive-whitehouse-working-with-facebook-and-twitter-to-tackle-anti-vaxxers-idUSKBN2AJ1SW.
- 43. In other words, prior to Dr. Huber's suspension from Twitter, Defendants entered into an agreement to silence the speech of speakers on Twitter, including Dr. Huber and others similarly situated, with which Defendants disagreed and which was contrary to the political agenda of the Biden administration.
- 44. Twitter does not ban all speech addressing the topic of COVID-19, including COVID-19 vaccines. As a subject matter, COVID-19, including COVID-19 vaccinations, is a permissible topic. Rather, pursuant to the agreement entered into between and among Defendants, Twitter only bans speech addressing the topic of COVID-19, including COVID-19 vaccines, that is contrary to the political agenda of the Biden administration. This fact demonstrates that the speech restriction is viewpoint based, and this fact is further evidence of the agreement between and among Defendants to censor certain speech based on its viewpoint and thus evidence of the conspiracy set forth in this First Amended Complaint.
- 45. Thus, in addition to public news sources, the facts and circumstances set forth in this First Amended Complaint and all of the inferences drawn from them demonstrate the existence of the conspiracy between and among Defendants to censor speech based on viewpoint, including Plaintiff's speech and the speech of others similarly situated.
- 46. Proof of a conspiracy can be provided by either direct or circumstantial evidence, taking into account the inferences drawn from such evidence. As case law makes clear, seldom do you have evidence of an *express* agreement between co-conspirators. But such evidence is not

required to prove a conspiracy. The direct and circumstantial evidence set forth in this First Amended Complaint and all inferences drawn from such evidence demonstrate the existence of the conspiracy between and among Defendants to engage in viewpoint discrimination that benefits the Biden administration, thereby causing harm to Plaintiff and others similarly situated as set forth in this First Amended Complaint.

- 47. Defendants mutually benefit from the conspiracy set forth in this First Amended Complaint. The conspiracy promotes and benefits the Biden administration's political agenda, an agenda shared and promoted by all Defendants, including Defendant Dorsey, and the conspiracy financially benefits Twitter, including Defendant Dorsey, as Twitter receives favorable treatment by and publicity from the Biden administration.
- 48. According to a senior White House official, the Biden administration is "talking to" social media companies "so they understand the importance of misinformation and disinformation and how they can get rid of it quickly." *Id*.
- 49. "The Biden White House is especially trying to make sure such material 'does not start trending on such platforms and become a broader movement," the official said. *Id*.
- 50. The White House "wants to stop [anti-vaccination] events," like "the anti-vaccine protests at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in early February" which was organized on social media. *Id*.
- 51. "A Twitter spokesman said the company is 'in regular communication with the White House on a number of critical issues including COVID-19 misinformation." *Id.* The "company" referenced here specifically includes Defendant Dorsey.
- 52. Indeed, Twitter has publicly admitted that the talks culminated in a "partnership with the White House" (*i.e.*, a conspiracy) to implement these goals (*i.e.*, the objective of the conspiracy—to silence speech that is contrary to the political agenda of the Biden administration), which specifically includes censoring the speech of Dr. Huber and of others similarly situated that is critical of COVID-19 vaccinations (*i.e.*, overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy). *See*, *e.g.*, https://www.theverge.com/2021/4/18/22391004/twitter-facebook-snap-white-house-
- e.g., https://www.theverge.com/2021/4/18/22391004/twitter-facebook-snap-white-house-vaccine-campaign.

53. Consequently, the evidence and all inferences drawn from the evidence show that the White House's involvement is not merely to provide approval or acquiescence, subtle encouragement, or permission of a private choice. Rather, all Defendants are willing participants in a conspiracy to deprive Plaintiff and others similarly situated of their constitutional rights, and overt acts were committed in furtherance of this conspiracy that caused harm to Plaintiff and others similarly situated.

- 54. Thus, Twitter and the federal government are working in tandem and with a unified and coordinated agreement, plan, and purpose following a meeting of the minds to partner together (*i.e.*, conspire) to suppress Dr. Huber's speech and the speech of others similarly situated based on its viewpoint.
- 55. Twitter's Terms of Service do not authorize Twitter to conspire with the federal government to restrict the speech of users of Twitter, such as Plaintiff and other similarly situated persons, because the speech is contrary to the political agenda of the White House. In other words, Twitter's Terms of Service do not authorize Twitter to engage in a civil conspiracy to unlawfully deprive private citizens of their constitutional rights. Thus, Plaintiff and other similarly situated users of Twitter did not agree to have their viewpoints on public issues censored by Twitter because the viewpoints are contrary to the political agenda of the Biden administration as set forth in this First Amended Complaint.
- 56. Employees at Twitter, acting pursuant to instruction by and at the specific direction of Defendant Dorsey and officials in the White House, came to an agreement to suspend Twitter accounts, specifically accounts like Dr. Huber's and others similarly situated, that post viewpoints on COVID-19 with which they disagree and then suspended these Twitter accounts, including Dr. Huber's, depriving the holders of these accounts of their right to freedom of speech and depriving them of the equal protection of the law.
- 57. White House officials jointly conspired and engaged with Twitter to silence Twitter accounts that post information on COVID-19 contrary to the White House's political agenda.
- 58. Twitter and its CEO Defendant Dorsey were willful and active participants in the conspiracy with the White House officials to silence protected speech.

- 60. Twitter and White House officials shared the common objective to silence viewpoints on COVID-19 with which they disagree and work in partnership to achieve the White House's goals of censoring the speech of Dr. Huber and others similarly situated.
- 61. Prior to her suspension, Dr. Huber was an active Twitter user who used her account to exercise her right to free speech. Now, because of the actions of Defendants, she is prohibited from reaching her 19,000 followers, gaining new followers, or interacting in any way with other Twitter users.
- 62. Defendants have discriminated, and continue to do so, against Plaintiff based on the viewpoint of her speech—*i.e.*, the viewpoint expressed in a news article that COVID-19 vaccinations may be unsafe. This is a restriction on Plaintiff's right to free speech.
- 63. Under Rules 23(a) and 23(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and other similarly situated people who have been or will be suspended from their Twitter accounts as a result of the conspiracy between and among Defendants to censor viewpoints that are contrary to the political agenda of the Biden administration with respect to COVID-19 and are thus censored for violating "Twitter Rules" by "[v]iolating [Twitter's] policy on spreading misleading and potentially harmful information related to COVID-19." The Plaintiff Class is defined as:

All Twitter account holders who have posted or intend to post on Twitter content deemed by Defendants to be misleading or potentially harmful information related to COVID-19 following the agreement, meeting of the minds, and/or common understanding between and among Defendants to illegally suppress such speech based upon its viewpoint ("Class Period").

64. The Plaintiff Class is so numerous that joinder of all the members would be impracticable. Twitter has 187 million users. As reported by media outlets, and upon information and belief, approximately 11.5 million accounts have been notified or suspended for violating the Twitter COVID-19 Policy. (*See, e.g.*, "Twitter to boot users who persist with Covid-19 lies" at

https://www.livemint.com/technology/apps/twitter-to-boot-users-who-persist-with-covid-19-

lies-11614691253346.html and "Twitter to permanently ban users who spread COVID

- 66. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class. Plaintiff has no conflicts involving other class members or Defendants. Plaintiff understands her role as a class representative and her duties to the class in this litigation. Plaintiff is represented by competent and skilled counsel whose interests are fully aligned with the interests of the class.
- 67. Questions of law and fact are common to the class. These legal questions include but are not limited to:
 - a. Does it violate the First Amendment for the government to conspire with a private entity to silence or chill viewpoints with which it disagrees?
 - b. Does it violate the First Amendment for the government to engage in joint action with a private entity to silence or chill unfavorable viewpoints?
 - c. Does it violate the Fifth Amendment for the government to conspire with a private entity to treat as less favorable certain viewpoints and thus deprive those speakers of a forum to express such viewpoints?
 - d. Does it violate the Fifth Amendment for the government to engage in joint action with a private entity to treat as less favorable certain viewpoints and thus deprive those speakers of a forum to express such viewpoints?
- 68. Maintaining individual actions would create a risk of "inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual class members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the party opposing the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A). Multiple courts issuing multiple injunctions governing the constitutionality of Defendants' actions, specifically including Defendants' conspiracy to silence disfavored viewpoints via the Twitter

COVID-19 Policy as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, would be entirely untenable. Doing so would only contribute to a state of uncertainty and confusion that allows the constitutional violations described in the First Amended Complaint to continue.

- 69. This case involves "adjudications with respect to individual class members that, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the individual adjudications." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A).
- 70. Finally, "the party opposing the class has acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the class as a whole[.]" Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A). There is no allegation that Plaintiff has been targeted because of anything unique to her as an individual. Rather, she has been repeatedly targeted because of her membership in a class of people who seek to post information on COVID-19 that Defendants oppose. Plaintiff's targeting exists only by virtue of a broader pattern and practice of unconstitutional conduct directed at this class by Defendants as a result of the civil conspiracy set forth in this First Amended Complaint. Logically, injunctive relief for the "class as a whole" is the only mechanism available to afford relief in light of conduct directed specifically to the class.

Section 230 of the Communication Decency Act

- 71. The civil conspiracy and/or joint action set forth in this First Amended Complaint, which specifically includes Twitter's censorship of Dr. Huber's speech and the speech of others similarly situated, is made possible by § 230 of the Communications Decency Act ("CDA").
 - 72. Section 230 of the CDA provides, in relevant part, as follows:
 - (c) Protection for "Good Samaritan" blocking and screening of offensive material.
 - (1) Treatment of publisher or speaker. No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider.
 - (2) Civil liability. No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be held liable on account of—

- (A) any action voluntarily taken in good faith to restrict access to or availability of material that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected; or
- (B) any action taken to enable or make available to information content providers or others the technical means to restrict access to material described in paragraph (1) [subparagraph (A)].

47 U.S.C. § 230(c).

- 73. Section 230 further provides the following: "State law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any State from enforcing any State law that is consistent with this section. No cause of action may be brought and no liability may be imposed under any State or local law that is inconsistent with this section." *Id.* at § 230(e)(3).
 - 74. Section 230 further states as follows:
 - (f) Definitions. As used in this section:
 - (1) Internet. The term "Internet" means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.
 - (2) Interactive computer service. The term "interactive computer service" means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.
 - (3) Information content provider. The term "information content provider" means any person or entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the Internet or any other interactive computer service.

- (4) Access software provider. The term "access software provider" means a provider of software (including client or server software), or enabling tools that do any one or more of the following:
 - (A) filter, screen, allow, or disallow content;
 - (B) pick, choose, analyze, or digest content; or
 - (C) transmit, receive, display, forward, cache, search, subset, organize, reorganize, or translate content.

47 U.S.C. § 230(f).

- 75. Neither before nor after the enactment of the CDA have the vast democratic forums of the Internet been subject to the type of government supervision and regulation that has attended the broadcast industry. Moreover, the Internet is not as invasive as radio or television.
- 76. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, by way of § 230 of the CDA, the federal government is empowering discrimination and the censorship of speech in these vast democratic forums.
- 77. Section 230 permits content- and viewpoint-based censorship of speech. By its own terms, § 230 permits Twitter "to restrict access to or availability of material that [they] consider[] to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable."
- 78. Section 230 confers broad powers of censorship, in the form of a "heckler's veto," upon Twitter censors, who can censor constitutionally protected speech and engage in discriminatory business practices with impunity by virtue of this power conferred by the federal government. In other words, Section 230 aids Defendants in accomplishing the objectives of the civil conspiracy set forth in this First Amended Complaint.
- 79. The interest in encouraging freedom of expression in a democratic society outweighs any benefit of censorship conferred upon Twitter by the federal government.
- 80. Section 230 is not tied to a specific category of speech that is generally proscribable (*i.e.*, obscenity), nor does it provide any type of objective standard whatsoever. The statute does permit the restriction of obscenity, but it also permits censorship of speech that is "otherwise

objectionable, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected." 47 U.S.C. § 230(c)(2)(A). Further, the subjective "good faith" of the censor does not remedy the vagueness issue, it worsens it.

- 81. Twitter falls under the provisions of Section 230 and is therefore permitted to engage in its discriminatory practices by the federal government in furtherance of the conspiracy set forth in this First Amended Complaint.
 - 82. Section 230, as applied, operates as a government-enforced heckler's veto.
- 83. Section 230 is vague and overbroad and lacks any objective criteria for suppressing speech.
- 84. Section 230 permits Twitter to engage in government-sanctioned discrimination and censorship of free speech in furtherance of the conspiracy set forth in this First Amended Complaint.
- 85. State action lies in the enactment of a statute such as Section 230 because it alters legal relations between persons, including the selective withdrawal from one group of legal protections against private acts, regardless of whether the private acts are attributable to the State.
- 86. Section 230 is a statute that alters the legal relations between Plaintiff and Twitter, resulting in the withdrawal from Plaintiff of legal protections against private acts. Consequently, state action lies in Plaintiff's challenge.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(First Amendment—Freedom of Speech)

- 87. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all stated paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 88. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, Defendants entered into an agreement to deprive Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated of their First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Defendants engaged in an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy. And the conspiracy did in fact deprive Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated of their First Amendment right to freedom of speech, thereby causing harm to Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated.

- 89. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, there was a plan and/or agreement among and between Defendants, the co-conspirators (Defendants) shared in the conspiratorial objective, and an overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy that caused injury to Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated.
- 90. By reason of the aforementioned acts, policies, practices, procedures, and/or customs, created, adopted, and enforced under color of federal law, Defendants have deprived Plaintiff of the right to freedom of speech in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 91. Defendants' First Amendment censorship, facially and as applied to Plaintiff's speech activity and the speech activity of those similarly situated, as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, intends to, and does in fact, suppress speech with which Defendants disagree and as such violate the First Amendment.
- 92. Defendants engaged in a conspiracy to suspend Plaintiff and those similarly situated from Twitter, depriving them of their free speech rights and discriminating against them based on their viewpoint in violation of the First Amendment.
- 93. Defendants also engaged in joint action to suspend Plaintiff from Twitter, depriving her of her free speech rights and discriminating against Plaintiff based on her viewpoint in violation of the First Amendment.
- 94. Defendants have caused, and will continue to cause, Plaintiff and those similarly situated to suffer undue hardship and irreparable injury.
- 95. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conspiracy and/or joint action to violate the First Amendment, Defendants' First Amendment restrictions, facially and as applied to Plaintiff's speech activity and the speech activity of those similarly situated, offend the First Amendment by granting public officials and their co-conspirators/joint actors unbridled discretion to suppress viewpoints that do not serve Defendants' political agendas.
- 96. Section 230 of the CDA, facially and as applied, is a content- and viewpoint-based restriction on speech in violation of the First Amendment.
 - 97. Section 230 of the CDA, facially and as applied, is vague and overbroad and lacks

any objective criteria for suppressing speech in violation of the First Amendment.

- 98. Section 230 of the CDA, facially and as applied, permits Defendants Twitter and Dorsey to engage in government-sanctioned discrimination and censorship of speech in violation of the First Amendment.
- 99. Section 230 of the CDA, facially and as applied, confers broad powers of censorship, in the form of a "heckler's veto," upon Defendant Twitter, which can censor constitutionally protected speech and engage in discriminatory business practices with impunity by virtue of this power conferred by the federal government in violation of the First Amendment.
- 100. Section 230 of the CDA, facially and as applied, grants Defendant Twitter and its officers, agents, and employees unbridled discretion to censor Plaintiff's speech, and the speech of those similarly situated, such that their decision to limit Plaintiff's speech, and the speech of those similarly situated, is not constrained by objective criteria, but may rest on ambiguous and subjective reasons in violation of the First Amendment.
- 101. Section 230 of the CDA, facially and as applied, permits Defendant Twitter to restrict Plaintiff's speech, and the speech of those similarly situated, based on the content and viewpoint expressed by Plaintiff's message, and the respective messages of those similarly situated, in violation of the First Amendment.
- 102. Section 230 has caused, and will continue to cause, Plaintiff and those similarly situated to suffer undue hardship and irreparable injury, entitling Plaintiff and those similarly situated to declaratory and injunctive relief.
- 103. Plaintiff and those similarly situated lack an adequate or available administrative remedy.
- 104. Plaintiff and those similarly situated have no adequate remedy at law to correct the continuing deprivation of their legal rights.
- 105. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of the First Amendment, Plaintiff and those similarly situated have suffered irreparable harm, including the loss of their constitutional rights, entitling them to declaratory and injunctive relief as against all Defendants and nominal and compensatory damages proximately caused during the Class Period against

Defendants in their individual capacities.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Fifth Amendment—Equal Protection)

- 106. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all stated paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 107. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, Defendants entered into an agreement to deprive Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated of the equal protection of the law guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. Defendants engaged in an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy. And the conspiracy did in fact deprive Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated of the equal protection of the law, thereby causing harm to Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated.
- 108. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, there was a plan and/or agreement among and between Defendants, the co-conspirators (Defendants) shared in the conspiratorial objective, and an overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy that caused injury to Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated.
- 109. By reason of the aforementioned acts, policies, practices, procedures, and/or customs, created, adopted, and enforced under color of federal law, Defendants have deprived Plaintiff of the equal protection of the law guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 110. Because Defendants are operating under the color of federal law, the Fifth Amendment is applicable.
- 111. The U.S. Supreme Court's approach to Fifth Amendment equal protection claims has always been precisely the same as to equal protection claims under the Fourteenth Amendment. Consequently, case law interpreting the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is applicable when reviewing an equal protection claim arising under the Fifth Amendment.
- 112. By granting use of a forum (the Internet and Twitter) to people whose views Defendants find acceptable, but denying or restricting use to those expressing less favored or

more controversial views, such as those expressed by Plaintiff and others similarly situated, Defendants have violated the equal protection guarantee of the Fifth Amendment.

- 113. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, Defendants' use of the Twitter COVID-19 Policy to suppress Plaintiff's speech has deprived Plaintiff and those similarly situated of the equal protection guarantee of the Fifth Amendment.
- 114. As set forth in this First Amended Complaint, Defendants' conspiracy and/or joint action to censor speech about COVID-19 on Twitter that Defendants disfavor violates the equal protection guarantee of the Fifth Amendment.
- 115. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of the Fifth Amendment, Plaintiff and those similarly situated have suffered irreparable harm, including the loss of their constitutional rights, entitling them to declaratory and injunctive relief as against all Defendants and nominal and compensatory damages proximately caused during the Class Period against Defendants in their individual capacities.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks this Court:

- A) That this Court declare that Defendants' conspiracy and/or joint action to suppress Plaintiff's speech, and the speech of others similarly situated, as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, violates Plaintiff's rights protected by the First and Fifth Amendments;
- B) That this Court enjoin Defendants from suppressing Plaintiff's speech and the speech of others similarly situated on Twitter as set forth in this First Amended Complaint;
- C) That this Court declare that Defendants' censorship of speech addressing public issues and matters of public concern, as set forth in this First Amended Complaint, violates the First and Fifth Amendments.
- D) That this Court enjoin Defendants' censorship of speech addressing public issues and matters of public concern as set forth in this First Amended Complaint;
- E) That this Court declare that § 230 of the Communications Decency Act, facially and/or as applied to Plaintiff's speech and/or the speech of others similarly situated, violates the First and Fifth Amendments as set forth in this First Amended Complaint;

- F) That this Court enjoin § 230 of the Communications Decency Act, facially and/or as applied to Plaintiff's speech and/or the speech of others similarly situated, as set forth in this First Amended Complaint;
- G) That this Court award Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class nominal and compensatory damages against Defendant Dorsey named in his individual capacity only for the past loss of Plaintiff's and Plaintiff Class's constitutional rights during the Class Period as set forth in this First Amended Complaint;
- H) That this Court award Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class their reasonable attorney fees, costs, and expenses as against all Defendants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412 and other applicable law;
- I) That this Court grant such other and further relief as it deems equitable and just under the circumstances.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues triable of right by a jury.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN FREEDOM LAW CENTER

/s/ David Yerushalmi

David Yerushalmi, Esq. (NY Bar No. 4632568; DC Bar No. 978179; Cal. Bar No.132011; Ariz. Bar No. 0096) 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 193 Beverly Hills, California 90211-3565 Tel: (646) 262-0500; Fax: (801) 760-3901

Robert J. Muise, Esq.* (MI P62849) P.O. Box 131098 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113 Tel: (734) 635-3756; Fax: (801) 760-3901 *Subject to admission *pro hac vice*

Attorneys for Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class