

Calling on Congress to Strengthen America's Right to a Free Press Social Media Toolkit

Created by RTDNA

RTDNA is urging Congress to prioritize passage of the Journalist Protection Act and the Right to Record Police Act. These acts will make it a federal crime to cause bodily harm or injury to a journalist and protect the right of journalists and the public to record and photograph police in public spaces.

We need your help to spread the word. Please encourage your members to [sign this petition](#), share on social media and email their elected officials. Below are sample social posts and email content to help you engage your members in this campaign. [Pair your social post with one of these graphics.](#)

You can also see more information about this campaign on [RTDNA's website](#).

Please contact Dan Shelley at pressfreedom@rtdna.org if you have any questions.

Suggested Social Media Posts

Pair one of these posts with a graphic. [Click here to access graphics.](#)

1. It's never been a more dangerous time to be a journalist in America. Join us in demanding #Congress takes action so journalists can continue serving their communities by seeking and reporting the truth. Sign this petition now: <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>
2. 1 in 5 local news stations reported attacks on employees in 2020. This is unacceptable. We aren't seeking special treatment for journalists. We're fighting to protect journalists' obligation to seek and report the truth: <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>
3. Journalists have been arrested and assaulted for recording police in public. This is unconstitutional. Congress must introduce the #RightToRecordPolice Act and remove any ambiguity about our #RightToRecordPolice. Act now: <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>
4. As journalists, we once armed ourselves with cameras, recorders and tough questions. Now we gear up with gas masks, bulletproof vests and strong legal defense teams. This isn't #pressfreedom. Speak up and demand a better future for #journalism. <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>

5. If you believe citizens and journalists should have the right to record police in public spaces, join us in calling on #Congress to introduce the #RightToRecordPoliceAct. <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>
6. This petition is a demand delivered to #Congress on behalf of thousands of responsible journalists. We need Congress to recognize journalism is fundamental to our democracy. Sign this petition now: <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>

Tagging, Hashtags and Sharing

- **Tag RTDNA in your post:**
 - Twitter: @RTDNA
 - Facebook: @RTDNA.RTDNF
 - Instagram: @rtdna.rtdnf
- **Hashtags:**
 - #JournalistProtectionAct
 - #RightToRecordPolice
- **Leaders to tag:**
 - Rep. Mark Pocan (Twitter: @repmarkpocan)
 - Rep. Jamie Raskin (Twitter: @RepRaskin)
 - Rep. Eric Swalwell (Twitter: @RepSwalwell)
 - Rep. Ron Wyden (Twitter: @RonWyden)
 - Sen. Richard Blumenthal (Twitter: @SenBlumenthal)
 - Sen. Bob Menendez (Twitter: @SenatorMenendez)
 - Sen. Maria Cantwell (Twitter: @SenatorCantwell)
 - Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Twitter: @SenAmyKlobuchar)
 - Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Swalwell: Andrew Ginsburg (Twitter: aginsburg123)
 - Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (Twitter: @SpeakerPelosi)
 - Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (Twitter: @SenSchumer)
 - Find your Congressional delegation on Twitter: <https://www.govtrack.us>
- **Share your own story:**

If your work has been impacted by violence against journalists, share your story with us. Email us at PressFreedom@RTDNA.org or share your story on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with the hashtag #JournalistProtectionAct and #RightToRecordPolice. Every story shared will allow us to better educate Congress on the importance of this issue, and will bring us one step closer to passing these pieces of legislation.
- **Link to petition:** <http://chnng.it/NDqpkDTgJd>

- Sample Letters/Emails to your Congressional Representatives (find an email here: <https://www.govtrack.us>)

Dear Senator/Representative (**INSERT NAME OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL**),

I'm writing to you today to urge you to reintroduce and pass the **Journalist Protection Act**. It's never been a more dangerous time to be a journalist in America. In 2020, 1 in 5 broadcast newsrooms reported attacks on employees. The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker recorded 380 assaults on the media. To me, a member of the media, this is more than a shocking statistic. This number includes my friends and colleagues.

Journalists are not asking for special treatment, we just want to protect our obligation to seek and report the truth on behalf of the public. We need Congress to acknowledge we have targets on our backs.

This is why I have joined RTDNA's campaign to push this critical yet overdue legislation through Congress. Reintroducing the Journalist Protection Act is a powerful statement in support of our work and a clear rebuke to those who have made violence against the media acceptable. I urge you to make this a priority.

Thank you for your time.
(Insert Name Here)

Dear Senator/Representative (**INSERT NAME OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL**),

I'm writing to you today to urge you to introduce and support the **Right to Record Police Act**. During the past year, fellow journalists have been arrested, attacked and have experienced police going to great lengths to interfere with legitimate news gathering efforts.

This is not accountability.

It is essential that Congress introduce and pass The Right to Record Police Act and remove any ambiguity about the right of the public, including journalists, to record police in public spaces.

As a working journalist, I want to ensure this is a priority for you.

Thank you for your time.
(Insert name here)