

Federal Register Notice 87 FR 15274, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/03/17/2022-05683/request-for-information-on-federal-priorities-for-information-integrity-research-and-development>, May 15, 2022

Request for Information on Federal Priorities for Information Integrity Research and Development

Patrick W.

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From: Patrick W.
Subject: RFI Response: Information Integrity R&D
Date:

Hi. Thanks for soliciting comments.

To me there are 2 issues, and clear solutions to both. The problems:

1. Misinformation / disinformation / propaganda on public media (internet, TV, radio, public journalism, newspapers, etc.)
2. Sensationalization of news (as opposed to educating the public and serving the public good)

The solutions:

1. A constitutional amendment specifying that all information provided on publicly regulated channels (all RF, cable and internet) and news services must be true, verifiable and not presented in a misleading way. This must be supported by federal law specifying criminal and civil penalties for violations that would always exceed any income gained through such violations. (Wording could be similar to the laws requiring advertisers to be honest.)
2. Federal law requiring all public channels which either purport or appear to be news sources (e.g., any channel, network or URL with the term *news* in its name) to give priority to news items that are in the public interest and to present both sides of controversial issues. The wording here should say something about the necessity for an informed electorate and the responsibility of public channels to help the public understand issues in a truly holistic way. Opinion pieces must be clearly labeled as such, and presented after the more objective and factual information.

Democracy and individual liberty are hard work. Propaganda and echo chambers make it practically impossible. We must do everything we can to give everyone access to real facts and honest analysis and protect the public from disinformation and propaganda. The unity and survival of our democratic republic depends on it.

Thank you for your hard work and integrity.

Patrick W.