



CONTACT:

Communications Dept, 415.741.5146,
comms@engine.is
Amy Schatz, 202.422.2689
aschatz@glenechogroup.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 2.26.18

Startup Advocates Address Implications of Sex Trafficking Legislation on Tech

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House of Representatives is expected to take up legislation Tuesday aimed at stopping sex traffickers from using internet sites and platforms to promote their services. On Monday evening, the House Rules committee accepted a proposed amendment to this legislation — the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) — which would add language from the Senate’s similar legislation, the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA).

While lawmakers are trying to stop sex trafficking, the SESTA language will have the unfortunate side effect of increasing liability for startups that unknowingly host illegal user-generated content. “Attaching SESTA to FOSTA does not add anything that will make it easier for prosecutors to stop bad actors online. It merely increases the risk of unforeseen liability for startups that host user-generated content without the promise of any meaningful decrease in online sex trafficking,” said Evan Engstrom, executive director of Engine, an organization which represents startups’ voices to government. “We encourage the House to pass FOSTA as it’s currently written without including amendments that will only make it harder for startups to assist law enforcement in the fight against online trafficking.”

Engine representatives will be available Tuesday to talk about this legislation and why it will hurt startups and others in the internet ecosystem.

To schedule an interview, please contact Amy Schatz at 202.422.2689 or aschatz@glenechogroup.com.

More information:

- [ENGINE'S STATEMENT ON HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1865](#)
- [Coalition Letter on FOSTA/SESTA](#)
- [One Bad Bill + One Good Bill = One Big Step Backward for the Internet](#)
- [THE TOP TEN MYTHS ABOUT SESTA'S \(S. 1693\) IMPACT ON STARTUPS](#)

About Engine

Engine is a technology policy, research, and advocacy organization that bridges the gap between policymakers and startups, working with government and a community of high-technology, growth-oriented startups across the nation to support the development of entrepreneurship. Engine conducts research, organizes events, and spearheads campaigns to educate elected officials, the entrepreneur community, and the general public on issues vital to fostering technological innovation. To learn more, visit <http://engine.is>.