

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 642

To prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating
the fairness doctrine.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MACK, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. JONES, Mr. AMASH, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HARPER, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. WEST, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. ELLMERS, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. FOXX, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BONNER, Mr. CRAVAACK, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. LANDRY, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mr. PETRI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prevent the Federal Communications Commission from
repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Broadcaster Freedom
5 Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAIRNESS DOCTRINE PROHIBITED.**

7 Title III of the Communications Act of 1934 is
8 amended by inserting after section 303 (47 U.S.C. 303)
9 the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 303A. LIMITATION ON GENERAL POWERS: FAIRNESS**
11 **DOCTRINE.**

12 “Notwithstanding section 303 or any other provision
13 of this Act or any other Act authorizing the Commission
14 to prescribe rules, regulations, policies, doctrines, stand-
15 ards, or other requirements, the Commission shall not
16 have the authority to prescribe any rule, regulation, policy,
17 doctrine, standard, or other requirement that has the pur-
18 pose or effect of reinstating or repromulgating (in whole
19 or in part) the requirement that broadcasters present op-
20 posing viewpoints on controversial issues of public impor-
21 tance, commonly referred to as the ‘Fairness Doctrine’,

- 1 as repealed in General Fairness Doctrine Obligations of
- 2 Broadcast Licensees, 50 Fed. Reg. 35418 (1985).”.

○