

## **AB 886—California Journalism Preservation Act**

**FLOOR ALERT**  
**OPPOSED**

Despite recently proposed amendments, NetChoice continues to strongly **oppose** AB 886—the California Journalism Preservation Act.

**AB 886 will preserve neither journalism nor competition. To the contrary, it will silence small voices by using State power to prop up—and influence—Big Media Dynasties opposed to competition.**

AB 886 gives the **State of California the power to decide what counts as journalism**. AB 886 violates this country’s founding principle of a free press, protected from government intrusion and censorship.

- ❖ Under AB 886, the **State decides who’s an “eligible” journalist and broadcaster**. Even setting aside this **flagrant violation of the First Amendment**, the State’s proud admission that this bill will benefit the “eligible” press’s finances creates more than just an **appearance of corruption**—it creates endless opportunities for it to occur.
- ❖ Destroys independent journalism. It is reasonable to worry that some might not want to bite the hand that feeds them – **as AB 886 explicitly allows 30% of funds collected to pad their bottom line**. That’s a mighty strong financial incentive.
- ❖ **There is no expectation that reporters will see an increase in pay**. All AB 866 does is make sure that profits go up, not more money for higher wages or more journalists.
- ❖ AB 866 **will further erode the public’s trust in both the media and in democracy**. Whether coverage is affected or not, the public will rightly question the media’s coverage of California’s government and elected officials.
- ❖ AB 886 will be enforced with **partisan goals in mind**. This isn’t only about left versus right; it’s also establishment media versus upstarts. Under AB 886, the **rich news outlets will crush their startup competitors**, reinforcing not only the media’s existing cartel over news distribution but also the control of a select group of corporate media giants.
- ❖ AB 886 might as well be called the **California Media Dynasty Protection by Destruction of Local Journalism Act**. The bill remarkably **excludes small, often local, papers** (those earning less than \$100,000 per year—the truly small outlets the bill is allegedly meant to help). Hence why papers like the *Times of San Diego* **oppose AB 866**.