{{Date}}

{{Name of elected official}}

{{Email or Address of elected official}}

Dear {{Elected Official}}

As one of your constituents, I appreciate that you and your office have embraced social media as a crucial means of interacting with the public. I was once able to take advantage of this to have my concerns and point of view heard directly by you and your staff, until I was blocked from viewing and replying to posts on your official {{Twitter/Facebook}} account on {{Insert exact or approximate date here}}. Because my comments have always complied with the page’s code of conduct, I can only assume I was blocked due to the critical nature of my comments.

The {{Twitter/Facebook}} page is being used as a public forum where governmental matters such as legislation, policies, and votes — which affect me as a constituent — are routinely discussed. Blocking me from this interactive space solely due to the nature of my comments violates my First Amendment rights. I respectfully request that you restore my access to your {{Twitter/Facebook}} rather than continuing to deny my rights guaranteed by both the United States Constitution and the Kansas State Constitution to engage in political speech.

Recent court decisions support my claim. In January 2019, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed a lower court ruling in *Davison v. Loudoun Cty. Bd. of Supervisors* that blocking people on social media is viewpoint discrimination in its most natural form. The Court ruled that government officials are “strictly limited” in their ability to regulate private speech in public forums—even in forums they create on social media. Similarly, *Leuthy et al. v. LePage*, a court ruled that blocking people who disagreed with Governor LePage of Maine, constituted not only viewpoint discrimination, but government censorship as well. Perhaps most importantly, as it involved the nation’s highest office, in July 2019 the Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court decision by ruling unanimously that President Trump’s practice of blocking critics on social media violates the First Amendment. In 2024, the US. Supreme Court held that while elected officials have a right to “exercise editorial control over speech and speakers” on their purely personal social media platforms, they generally do not have the right to block constituents from government social media pages, or to block individuals from responding to specific posts on their personal pages if the official was purporting to exercise their authority as an elected official in that post. *Lindke v. Freed*, 601 U.S. 187, 188 (2024).

Restricting participation in social media forums such as your page, as you can see federal courts have recently held, is unconstitutional. The vast democratic forums of the internet are essential for the exchange of views, especially political speech, which is at the core of First Amendment protections. It is crucial that members of the public remain a part of the conversation, and by doing so are protected when their views are expressed.

 {{Note: Use this space to write a personal statement on why you value the free exchange of ideas with your elected lawmakers, and why being denied that opportunity is harmful to you and the issues you care about.}}

For these reasons, I once again respectfully request that you and your staff immediately restore my unrestricted ability to view and interact with your {{ Twitter/Facebook}} posts, not only to fulfil your duties as my elected representative to hear my views, critical or not, but also to fulfil your duties as a public servant to uphold the United States Constitution.

Sincerely,

{{SIGNATURE}}
 {{Your name}}