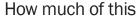
## **Common Sense**

## The Colluders

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Big Tech social media companies that once boasted of providing open forums now routinely ban speech that they disagree with — speech about elections, pandemics, Wuhan labs, or what have you.



suppression is private and independently initiated? How much is imposed at the behest of government officials who are supposed to respect First Amendment rights?

Government officials not only say that people should not say such-and-such; they also, increasingly, either complain that

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social media companies don't do enough to gag people or herald the extent to which they do so.

Earlier this year, Reuters reported that "the White House has been reaching out to social media companies including Facebook, Twitter and Alphabet Inc's Google



about clamping down on COVID misinformation..."

Now the American Freedom Law Center is suing Twitter and President Biden so that the question of whether the government is in effect "deputizing" private organizations to assault freedom of speech can be adjudicated.

The Center is filing on behalf of Colleen Huber, a doctor Twitter censored and suspended for saying the wrong thing about COVID-19. Of course, there are many other victims of the same policy, and it the Center seeking class-action status for the lawsuit.

The government has been enlisting social-media moguls as foot soldiers in a propaganda war. Whether this is done openly or behind closed doors, this war on free speech violates the Constitution.

As we must hope the outcome of this legal action affirms.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.