



What's Wrong With SOPA?

The **Stop Online Piracy Act** (SOPA, H.R. 3261) is a dangerous new “anti-piracy” bill being debated in the House of Representatives. Supporters claim that SOPA targets “rogue” foreign websites that encourage online infringement, but the bill’s vague language would create devastating new tools for silencing legitimate speech all around the web.

In spite of historic opposition from a diverse coalition including civil liberties and human rights organizations, tech industry leaders, security experts, legal scholars, bipartisan legislators, and many more, the bill is moving quickly through Congress, fueled by massive infusions of cash from big content companies.

What can we do to stop this disastrous legislation? It’s time to pick up the phone and call your Representative in Washington, and let her know that we won’t stand for this Internet blacklist bill. Here’s some facts to help her understand why:

- **SOPA gives individuals and corporations unprecedented power to silence speech online.** Under SOPA, individuals and corporations could send a notice to a site’s payment partners, requiring those partners to cut the site off – *even if the site could never be held liable for infringement in a U.S. court.* Since many sites depend on this revenue to cover operational costs, even one accusation of infringement could be ruinous.
- **SOPA gives the government even more power to censor.** The Attorney General can “disappear” websites by creating a blacklist and requiring service providers (such as search engines and domain services) to block the sites on the list.
- **SOPA uses vague language that is sure to be abused.** The bill targets nearly any site that hosts user-generated content, or even just has a search function, by failing to provide protections for legal speech.
- **SOPA would not stop online piracy.** The powerful tools granted to the Attorney General would present major obstacles to casual users, but would be trivial for dedicated and technically savvy users to circumvent.

Please call today and make your voice heard on this important issue. Find your Representative’s number at <https://eff.org/sopacall>.

There are plenty more reasons why SOPA is bad news for the future of the Internet: it will undermine human rights efforts, interfere with important Internet security initiatives, and balkanize the Internet. For more information on these dangers, find our ongoing coverage of the bill at <https://www.eff.org>.