



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 18, 2023

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Julia D. Taylor
General Counsel
Eventbrite, Inc.
155 5th Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
juliat@eventbrite.com

Re: Censorship of Speech

Dear Ms. Taylor:

We, the 19 undersigned Attorneys General, write to you today to express our concern over news that Eventbrite appears to be censoring political speech that it simply does not like. Specifically, it appears Eventbrite has deplatformed an event scheduled for November 6, 2023, and hosted by Palmetto Family Council in Spartanburg, South Carolina, which will voice concerns with gender transitioning of minors and feature a well-known detransitioner, Chloe Cole.

Undoubtedly, the topic of gender is hotly debated in American society, as the populace grapples with novel theories of gender identity. Some people believe that gender is not immutably tied to sex, and that there are innumerable gender identities on a gender spectrum. Others (in fact, a growing majority of American adults), believe that there are only two genders,¹ and that sex and gender are inseparably tied.

¹ Sean Salai, “Number of genders? Two, say most adults,” *The Washington Times*, Jun. 8, 2023, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jun/8/number-genders-two-say-most-adults/> (accessed September 6, 2023) (revealing that 65% of polled adults indicated they believe in only two genders, male and female, up from 62% in 2022 and 59% in 2021).

One such person is a teenager named Chloe Cole.² At 13 years old, she began identifying as a boy and taking testosterone and puberty blockers. At 15, she underwent a double mastectomy. But at 16, she realized she had made a terrible mistake and “detransitioned.” Chloe’s gender transition procedures left her with irreversible physical and physiological changes. Chloe wants to tell her story and express her position in the gender debate. She wants to warn people about the pitfalls of pediatric gender transition in the hope of preventing other tragic experiences like hers.

Eventbrite appears to disagree with Chloe’s position in this debate. But rather than respectfully disagree, Eventbrite appears to have deplatformed an upcoming event in South Carolina featuring Chloe and her concerns about pediatric gender transition.

According to Eventbrite, Chloe’s story violates Eventbrite’s policy on “Hateful, Dangerous, or Violent Content and Events.” And it appears Eventbrite has been routinely deplatforming events all over the world that espouse a view on gender different than its own.³

Rather than celebrate the marketplace of ideas and trust that the truth will prevail, Eventbrite appears poised to manipulate public opinion by silencing political dissidents.

² Amanda, Prestigiacomio, *The Daily Wire*, “‘Censored For Taking A Stand’: Eventbrite Cancels Event Against Child Mutilation With Detransitioner Chloe Cole,” Sept. 30, 2023, <https://www.dailywire.com/news/censored-for-taking-a-stand-eventbrite-cancels-event-against-child-mutilation-with-detransitioner-chloe-cole> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023).

³ See, e.g., Lindsay Shepherd, *True North*, “Eventbrite drops Protect Our Kids event for being ‘hateful’ or ‘dangerous,’” Sept. 10, 2023, <https://tnc.news/2023/09/10/eventbrite-drops-protect-our-kids/> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023) (discussing an event deplatformed by Eventbrite in Canada); see also Valerie Richardson, *The Washington Times*, “Eventbrite blasted for removing ‘Let Women Speak’ event over ‘hateful’ content,” Jul. 15, 2023, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jul/15/eventbrite-blasted-removing-let-women-speak-event/> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023) (discussing an event deplatformed by Eventbrite in Texas); see also Itir Yildiz, “Eventbrite Accused of ‘Campaign of Cancellation’ Against Gender-Critical Events,” Dec. 8, 2022, <https://www.ticketnews.com/2022/12/eventbrite-accused-of-campaign-of-cancellation-against-gender-critical-events/> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023) (discussing several events deplatformed by Eventbrite in the UK); see also Itir Yildiz, *TicketNews*, “Eventbrite Draws Conservative Anger Over Walsh Event Removal,” Sept. 14, 2022, <https://www.ticketnews.com/2022/09/eventbrite-draws-conservative-anger-over-walsh-event-removal/> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023) (discussing an event deplatformed by Eventbrite in Kentucky).

Unlike most private companies, “Big Tech” entities have become so big and essential to the operation of contemporary society that legislatures are beginning to treat them differently. And understandably so, because Big Tech wields unrivaled power to control the flow of information. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court will soon review several different laws addressing restrictions on social media companies’ ability to censor speech on their platforms.⁴

Eventbrite finds itself among the ranks of Big Tech. In the first 9 months of 2022 alone, Eventbrite sold 84 million tickets for various events through its online platform.⁵

The scope of Eventbrite’s reach means that an abundance of speakers and performers, as well as tens of millions of consumers, rely on Eventbrite for distribution of and access to various messages. That is why it’s so concerning that Eventbrite appears to be using its power and influence to silence those with whom it disagrees.

As Attorneys General of our respective states, we take great interest in protecting the free flow of speech within our borders. Your recent actions give us great concern that your widely-relied-upon platform stifles this flow, and possibly misleads consumers as to the scope of messages that are permitted on your site.⁶ As a result, we request clarification from you as to how Chloe’s account of her own transgender experience is allegedly “Hateful, Dangerous, or Violent,” and what you will do going forward to ensure your event-screening policies are politically unbiased and respectful of freedom of speech. We look forward to hearing from you within 30 days of this letter.

[Signatures on following pages]

⁴ Mark Sherman, *The Associated Press*, “The Supreme Court will decide if state laws limiting social media platforms violate the Constitution,” Sept. 29, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-social-media-florida-texas-820e90e58e49c1146b69101ece4dd9d5> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023).

⁵ *Eventbrite*, “Eventbrite Trends Report” for 2022, <https://www.eventbrite.com/blog/press/newsroom/2022-eventbrite-trends-report/> (accessed Oct. 5, 2023).

⁶ *See, e.g., id.*, “Community Guidelines,” <https://www.eventbrite.com/1/community-guidelines/> (accessed Oct. 11, 2023) (“As a platform that values diverse opinions and a vibrant community, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful platform for the organization and discovery of live events.”) (emphasis added).

Sincerely,



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Daniel Cameron
Kentucky Attorney General



Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General



Treg Taylor
Alaska Attorney General



Lynn Fitch
Mississippi Attorney General



Tim Griffin
Arkansas Attorney General



Andrew Bailey
Missouri Attorney General



Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General



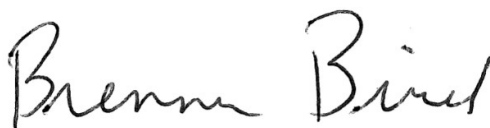
Austin Knudsen
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