

State Capitol
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SCOTT FITZPATRICK
MISSOURI STATE TREASURER

November 17, 2021

Mr. Jamie Dimon
Chief Executive Officer, JP Morgan Chase
270 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Dimon,

It has come to my attention that a subsidiary of JP Morgan Chase, WePay, has denied ticket payment processing for an upcoming event hosted by the Defense of Liberty organization. The event is part of a Speaker Series featuring Donald Trump Jr. and Cecilia Johnson, the National Director of Black Engagement for the Republican National Committee.

WePay states, "Per our Terms of Service we are unable to process for hate, violence, racial intolerance, terrorism, the financial exploitation of a crime, or items or activities that encourage, promote, facilitate, or instruct others regarding the same." In their notification that they would no longer process payments for Defense of Liberty, WePay stated that "All information regarding our review process is proprietary so no additional information is available in these instances. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide you with our services and this decision is final."

The Defense of Liberty Speaker Series began over a decade ago, and has hosted conservative speakers from a variety of backgrounds in eight public events, including Candace Owens, U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, and Congressman Jason Smith among others. In that ten-year history, there have been no incidents that fit the description of prohibited activities listed by WePay. The series provides an opportunity for leading conservative thinkers to share ideas. Hate, violence, racial intolerance, and terrorism are antithetical to the mission of the Defense of Liberty organization and its founder Paul Curtman, who served our nation admirably in the Marine Corps and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Despite the accusation of wrongdoing and suspension of services, WePay has thus far failed to provide any additional information or specifics about how the group or this event fall into any of these troubling categories.

Consequently, the only reasonable conclusion is the largest bank in the United States, JP Morgan Chase, has made it its policy to discriminate against its customers based on their political ideology. By doing so your institution is discriminating against ideology that was supported by half of the country and 60% of voting Missourians in the last election.

In Missouri, we do not shy away from political debate, but we also don't extend that debate to every aspect of our lives. We don't choose banks based on political ideology, harass politicians we disagree with at restaurants, or perform a political litmus test before every decision. Denying service based on political ideology is un-American, and only serves to further divide our country. Boycotts, bans, and cancellations will not unite us, but listening to those with whom we disagree without preconceived judgements might help.

While as a private business you are free to choose who you want to do business with, it will be the policy of the Missouri State Treasurer's Office that the State of Missouri will not do business with JP Morgan Chase, or any other financial institution that discriminates against customers based on mainstream political ideology so long as that discrimination continues.

I urge you to reconsider this misguided decision, restore payment processing for the Defense of Liberty organization, and join me in condemning the politics of divisiveness and begin engaging with those we disagree with rather than silencing them.

Thank you,



Scott Fitzpatrick
Missouri State Treasurer