

How Biden Can Take the High Road on Misinformation | Lawfare

By Alex Engler

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In his last weeks in office, President Trump has dug in his heels on the annual defense spending bill, promising to veto the legislation over Congress's refusal to rescind legal protections for internet platforms. As absurd as Trump's insistence is, it shouldn't be surprising. Throughout his term, Trump has threatened the platforms through tweets and executive actions, angling for more favorable treatment of the right-wing media and politicians—and undermining efforts to clean up the online information ecosystem in the years since 2016.

While President-elect Biden will certainly take an approach distinct from President Trump's, it is not yet clear what that will be. "I've never been a fan of Facebook," Biden told the New York Times editorial board during the campaign. Recently, senior Biden campaign staffer Bill Russo harshly criticized Facebook for its handling of posts by former Trump adviser Steve Bannon. While this frustration is understandable, Biden should refrain from narrowly focusing on individual grievances.

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