

**To:** Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]  
**From:** Kate Starbird  
**Sent:** Thur 10/6/2022 8:19:59 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Media request: Robby Mook's involvement in Election Integrity Partnership  
**Received:** Thur 10/6/2022 8:20:00 PM

Go ahead. We probably wouldn't use libelous... but you are free to say that and it's true.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 6, 2022, at 1:11 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

We gotta make a call of whether we are responding ASAP.

Alex

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**From:** Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>  
**Date:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 1:01 PM  
**To:** Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Ari Chasnoff <chasnoff@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Media request: Robby Mook's involvement in Election Integrity Partnership

I like that response (short and direct), but on the UW end of things, I'll defer to Kate.

-- Michael

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**Michael Grass**

Assistant Director for Communications

[Center for an Informed Public](#)

University of Washington

[megrass@uw.edu](mailto:megrass@uw.edu)

Pronouns: (he/him)

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**From:** Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 11:58 AM  
**To:** Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>; Ari Chasnoff <chasnoff@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Media request: Robby Mook's involvement in Election Integrity Partnership

Here is my suggested response to Greg:

"

Mr. Piper-

Like most of what Just the News has written about EIP over the last week, your implications in this email are completely false. The Defending Digital Democracy project at Harvard was not a part of the EIP, had no role in referring, analyzing or writing about our work, and nobody at DDD (including Robby Mook) played any part in our 2020 analysis of election disinformation.

We have responded to your other false and libelous claims here:

<https://www.eipartnership.net/blog/a-statement-from-the-election-integrity-partnership> [[eipartnership.net](#)]

Sincerely,  
Alex  
“

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**From:** Greg Piper <[gpiper@justthenews.com](mailto:gpiper@justthenews.com)>

**Date:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:49 AM

**To:** [info@eipartnership.net](mailto:info@eipartnership.net) <[info@eipartnership.net](mailto:info@eipartnership.net)>, Alex Stamos <[stamos@stanford.edu](mailto:stamos@stanford.edu)>, [uwcip@uw.edu](mailto:uwcip@uw.edu) <[uwcip@uw.edu](mailto:uwcip@uw.edu)>

**Subject:** Media request: Robby Mook's involvement in Election Integrity Partnership

Hey folks, this is Greg Piper at Just the News in DC. I saw that the Defending Digital Democracy project at Harvard's Belfer Center, cofounded by 2016 Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook, was one of your civil society collaborators for the 2020 misinformation reporting effort.

Mook testified this summer in the criminal trial of former Clinton campaign lawyer Michael Sussmann that Clinton approved taking the allegation of a covert Trump Organization-Alfa Bank hotline to the press, even though the campaign wasn't "totally confident" in the allegation. He said it wasn't an "October surprise" even though the campaign tweeted it Oct. 31, 2016.

Given that this allegation was exposed as pretty blatant disinformation, didn't that give you pause about inviting a Mook-founded project to participate in the EIP? Wouldn't his involvement weaken the legitimacy of the EIP?

My deadline is 4 pm Eastern, thanks.

--

Greg Piper  
Reporter  
Just the News  
[gpiper@justthenews.com](mailto:gpiper@justthenews.com)  
240-423-3220

On Thu, Sep 29, 2022 at 8:11 PM Greg Piper <[gpiper@justthenews.com](mailto:gpiper@justthenews.com)> wrote:

Hello, this is Greg Piper at Just the News in DC. There's new scrutiny on CISA and its work with the Election Integrity Partnership and I wanted to get your response.

Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-Ga.), a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, told us this amounted to the federal government sanctioning and outsourcing censorship:

*"The government knows that they cannot do it by themselves because of the First Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits it. And then they decide to partner with another entity, a private entity, a social media platform or university.*

*"And then they say, 'Hey, we're going to feed you information that we think is disinformation, or we want to be disinformation. And then you go ahead and you do the deplatforming. You label it as misinformation, or disinformation.'"*

He says to expect Republicans to investigate the consortium next year if they take back Congress, and that he's drafting legislation called the Free Speech Defense Act to address censorship issues:

*"This bill would prevent the federal government from labeling anything through a proxy entity, like a social media company, as disinformation, labeling it as misinformation or labeling it as true. And then it would also give an opportunity for those people who have been injured by it to take legal action."*

Former State Department official Mike Benz, who founded the Foundation for Freedom Online and has been [digging into alleged DHS censorship \[foundationforfreedomonline.com\]](#), told us this was the largest federally sanctioned censorship effort he'd ever seen:

*"If you trace the chronology, you find that there was actually 18 months' worth of institutional work to create this*

*very apparatus that we now know played a significant role in the censorship of millions of posts for the 2020 election and has ambitious sights for 2022 and 2024.*

*"Amazingly, there are now so many Ministry of Truth functionaries within the Department of Homeland Security. There are so many Ministry of Truth tasks, so many Ministry of Truth points of contact, so many different Ministry of Truth policies for whether to remove something, reduce it, slap a fact checking label on it."*

What's your defense of this past and ongoing collaboration with the federal government to report content for removal, throttling and labeling that the First Amendment prevents the feds from doing directly? Are you helping them circumvent the law? Renee DiResta said there were "unclear legal authorities including very real First Amendment questions" about the partnership at the Cybersecurity Summit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNe4MJ351wU> [youtube.com]

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Greg Piper  
Reporter  
Just the News  
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