



**ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION**

Protecting Rights and Defending Freedom on the Electronic Frontier

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## Stopping Dangerous Blacklist Bills SOPA and PIPA

The **Stop Online Piracy Act** (SOPA, H.R. 3261) and the **Protect IP Act** (PIPA, S. 968) are controversial “piracy” bills being debated in the House of Representatives and Senate, respectively. Supporters claim the bills target “rogue” foreign websites that encourage online infringement, but their real effect would be to slow down job-creating tech innovations at home and 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, a bipartisan group of legislators, and many more, the bills are moving quickly through Congress, fueled by massive infusions of cash from big content companies.

Countering the \$94 million the content industry has spent in lobbying money won't be easy, but legislators in Congress need to know that these bills are not ready for prime time.

- **The blacklist bills are expensive.** The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that PIPA alone would cost taxpayers at least \$47 million over 5 years, and could cost the private sector many times more. Those costs would be carried mostly by the tech industry, hampering growth and innovation.
- **The blacklist bills silence legitimate speech.** Rightsholders, ISPs, or the government could shut down sites with accusations of infringement, and without real due process.
- **The blacklist bills are bad for the architecture of the Internet.** But don't take our word for it: see the open letters that dozens of the Internet's concerned creators have submitted to Congress about the impact the bills would have on the security of the web.
- **The blacklist bills won't stop online piracy.** The tools these bills would grant rightsholders are like chainsaws in an operating room: they do a lot of damage, and they aren't very effective in the first place. The filtering methods might dissuade casual users, but they would be trivial for dedicated and technically savvy users to circumvent.

There are plenty more reasons why these blacklist bills are bad news for the future of the Internet: they would 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

[www.eff.org](http://www.eff.org).

