



JOINT STATEMENT

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New England Journalism Organizations Condemn White House Restrictions on News Organizations

We, the undersigned journalism organizations, strongly condemn President Donald Trump's decision to ban CNN, Politico, and MS NOW from the White House.

A free and independent press is fundamental to our democracy. Journalists must be able to report on government officials and hold those in power accountable without fear of retaliation or restrictions based on the content of their reporting.

Presidents have the right to respond to criticism and challenge reporting they believe is inaccurate. However, using the power of the presidency to restrict access for news organizations because of their coverage threatens the principles of press freedom and government transparency.

The White House is a public institution, and access to it should not be conditioned on whether journalists or news organizations produce coverage that is favorable to the president.

The press is a proxy for the public. When the press is denied access, the people are denied access to information.

We stand with journalists and news organizations committed to informing the public. We urge the administration to respect the independence of the press and recognize that a free press is essential to a healthy democracy.

Protecting press freedom is not about supporting one political party or opposing another. It is about defending the constitutional principles that allow journalism to serve the public, regardless of who occupies the White House.

As organizations representing and supporting journalism throughout New England, we remain committed to defending the First Amendment and supporting the vital role of an independent press.

Signed,

Connecticut Daily Newspaper Association
Maine Press Association
Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association
New England First Amendment Coalition
New England Newspaper and Press Association
Vermont Press Association
Rhode Island Press Association

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