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 A close-up of a news and support sign

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 21, 2023**

**Tenney, DelBene introduce the Community News &  
Small Business Support Act  
Bipartisan legislation supports institutions fundamental to hometown communities**

Washington, DC — Today, Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24) and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-1), both members of the Ways and Means Committee, introduced the Community News & Small Business Support Act.

The bipartisan legislation supports two institutions critical to sustaining our hometown communities: local news organizations and small businesses.

"While national news continues to be politicized and entertainment-driven, the fate of local news has been ignored and now hangs in the balance," said Tenney, the bill's sponsor. "Each week, two local newspapers shutter their doors for good. This trend can allow mainstream media to infiltrate our local communities with no check or balance. The Community News & Small Business Support Act empowers local newspapers to hire and maintain the reporters necessary to cover our hometown institutions — from churches and synagogues to town halls and school boards — without undue influence. This legislation also provides necessary marketing support to Main Street businesses, as they, too, are critical to the fabric of our local communities."

“In today’s digital world, access to trustworthy and reliable news is more important than ever. Local journalists and newspapers play a critical role in increasing involvement in civic institutions, identifying government corruption and decreasing polarization. Yet, this industry is struggling more than ever to keep the lights on,” said DelBene, the bill's original co-sponsor. “The legislation we are introducing today would provide much-needed support for newspapers so local journalists can continue their invaluable work."

Hometown news, unlike national media, is non-partisan and fundamental to the fabric of our local communities. The Community News & Small Business Support Act:

* Brings back local jobs to community newsrooms.
* Strengthens Main Street businesses.
* Increases access to information that reflects hometown values.

The Community News & Small Business Support Act delivers on this promise with content-neutral tax credits, sunsetting in five years, for (1) hometown news organizations to employ community-based local journalists and (2) small businesses for marketing themselves with their local media organizations. National news outlets are not eligible for these tax credits.

“I am proud to be part of the America’s Newspapers team that worked hard to make this happen,” said Cameron Nutting Williams, regional publisher and chief revenue officer of Ogden Newspapers. Williams, who is president of America’s Newspapers, said this legislation will benefit local newsrooms across the country, as well as their local advertisers. Pointing to a recent national advertising study conducted by America’s Newspapers, she noted: “Seventy-nine percent of Americans read and use local news to stay informed about their cities, counties and communities. When newspapers are shuttered, that hurts local communities, leads to citizens being less informed by credible sources and hurts Main Street businesses.” She also cited figures from the study showing that almost six out of 10 American adults use newspaper advertising to help them decide what brands, products and local services to buy. “The local business in communities served by newspapers across the country will greatly benefit from the advertising credits that will be available to them under this legislation. On behalf of the America’s Newspapers membership, I want to thank Rep. Tenney and Rep. DelBene for their support.”

"Thank you to Congresswoman Tenney and Congresswoman DelBene for their dedication to both local news and small businesses," said Dean Ridings, CEO of America's Newspapers, which is the country's largest trade group of local news publishers with over 1,550 newspaper members. "When America's Newspapers began leading the call for federal legislation to support the local news industry, we could not have imagined having such strong congressional advocates, from both sides of the aisle, in our corner. In addition to the congresswomen, we would also like to thank all of the organizations that have supported America's Newspapers in these efforts, including the News/Media Alliance, the Rebuild Local News Coalition, dozens of state press associations and more."

**Learn more and view a list of all supporting associations at:** <https://newspapers.org/support-community-news/>

**About America’s Newspapers:**

On behalf of its approximately 1,700 newspaper and associate member companies, America’s Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. We put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: [www.newspapers.org](http://www.newspapers.org)

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