

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Blackburn demands Meta withdraw plans to sweep up intellectual property of creators and businesses



By U.S. Senator and TN Candidate for Governor Marsha Blackburn

NASHVILLE, Tenn., October 23, 2026– U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) sent a letter to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg expressing serious concern over Meta’s updated Commercial Terms that will exploit American creators and businesses by granting itself sweeping authority to scrape content from any website associated with Facebook and Instagram business accounts.

Opinion

Meta Terms Raise Alarms Over Abuse of American Businesses’ Intellectual Property

These terms indicate Meta is attempting to exploit American creators and businesses by granting itself sweeping authority to scrape content from any website

American businesses should not have to give Big Tech unrestricted access to their intellectual property simply because they use Facebook or Instagram to reach customers. Yet Meta’s proposed terms raise serious questions about whether your company intends to exploit its dominant position through coercive consent to collect valuable content from the people who created it.

associated with Facebook and Instagram business accounts. American businesses should not have to give Big Tech unrestricted access to their intellectual property simply because they use Facebook or Instagram to reach customers. Yet Meta’s proposed terms raise serious questions about whether your company intends to exploit its dominant position through coercive consent to collect valuable content from the people who created it. On October 15, 2026, reports revealed that Meta planned to implement new Commercial Terms that would authorize the company to use automated web scrapers to access, collect, and analyze content from external websites associated with business accounts on its platforms. The original language explicitly authorized Meta to use this content to “research” and “train” its products and services, raising concerns that the company could use copyrighted articles, photographs, musical works, and other proprietary materials to develop its artificial intelligence models. In effect, simply linking a business website to a Facebook or Instagram account could expose any content

on that website to collection and use by Meta for purposes far beyond the business’s original intent.

Meta’s Terms Will Allow Their AI Models to Train on Copyrighted Content

Your Commercial Terms read: “You authorize us (or any entity acting on our behalf) to use automated software (such as web scrapers, bots, robots, spiders, crawlers, and user agents) and create test credentials to access, index, cache, analyze, collect, retrieve, or crawl the domains, web pages, or URLs (and any content available through them) that are associated with your products or services, or that are made available through your or users’ use of Meta Company Products and services, and to periodically pull updates from such domains, web pages, or URLs.

Meta may use any content from such domains, web pages, or URLs to provide, develop, improve, research, train, and maintain the integrity of, the Meta Company Products, services, and features provided under these Commercial Terms and any other applicable supplemental terms.”

Creators and Publishers Deserve Real Protections for Their Work

After backlash from Americans across the country, Meta revised its terms to remove the explicit reference to AI training and narrow the stated purposes to business products. However, these revisions fail to resolve the underlying concerns. Meta’s updated language still authorizes extensive scraping of external websites and permits Meta to

Framing data-extraction practices as voluntary does not change the coercive nature of this decision. A local newspaper should not have to worry that linking its website to Facebook gives Meta permission to collect its reporting. A musician or photographer should not have to surrender control over their original work simply to promote themselves on Instagram.

“develop” its business products with collected content. Without clear restrictions on how that information may be used, including whether it may be

incorporated into AI systems, Meta’s revisions offer little assurance that creators’ intellectual property will be protected. This is particularly troubling for American news publishers, creators, and small businesses that rely on Meta’s platforms to reach their audiences and customers. Framing data-extraction practices as voluntary does not change the coercive nature of this decision. A local newspaper should not have to worry that linking its website to Facebook gives Meta permission to collect its reporting. A musician or photographer should not have to surrender control over their original work simply to promote themselves on Instagram. American creators and small businesses are not a free source of content for Meta to exploit, and they deserve to know exactly how their work is being collected and used. Meta’s updated Commercial Terms raise serious questions about the company’s respect for the businesses and creators that make its platforms valuable. Meta must withdraw the updated Commercial Terms and come to the table to protect the content of creators and publishers across the country.

Mississippi Arts Commission receives \$77,500 in Grant Funding to pilot a new Creative Aging Grant program in Mississippi

Opening date for applications is Feb. 1, 2027

JACKSON, MS., October 22, 2026 –The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) was recently awarded \$77,550 in funding through a national grant program to pilot a Creative Aging Grant for older adults in Mississippi. MAC is one of 28 state arts agencies receiving awards from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). With this funding, MAC will expand access to high-quality, sequential arts learning opportunities for older adults.

“MAC was selected through a competitive national grant to pilot a program targeted at supporting the health of older adults through art programming,” said David Lewis, executive director at MAC. “The Creative Aging grant allows MAC to re-grant these funds to communities throughout Mississippi that are providing vital arts programming to those who are aged 55 and over. We are honored to have the opportunity to expand our work into new areas to support Mississippians.”

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MAC’s grant program will support organizations in hiring teaching artists to lead creative classes in a range of art forms for adults aged 55 and over. Non-profits, units of local government, libraries, county, and municipal agencies in Mississippi may apply for matching funds for artist fees, supplies, and other related expenses. These experiences will be hands-on, sequential, and rooted in a curriculum designed and led by professional teaching artists. Such experiences promote mental alertness, emotional fulfillment, and physical activity. They also serve to combat isolation and encourage self-expression in ways that foster dignity, joy, and community.

The Creative Aging Grant, which is administered through the CACF program, a joint initiative of the NASAA and E.A. Michelson Philanthropy, builds upon the remarkable success of previous initiatives: Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging and States Leading Creative Aging. These vital investments have strengthened creative aging issue leadership for state arts agencies, significantly expanded arts opportunities for older adults, further integrated the arts into state aging services, and enhanced expertise in creative aging program delivery. "E.A. Michelson Philanthropy's

Music community honors and pays tribute to the life, legacy and music of John Anderson

“John Anderson was very soulful. The songs he sang came to life with his truly unique voice and he represented what country music really is. An unmistakable, fun loving artist from the deep south who loved to sing and perform and was embraced by the country music community as one of the best who ever played the Opry. We will miss him, but his songs will live on forever In our hearts. RIP John Anderson” - Lee Greenwood

“I am in shock. Just Sunday, John and I were at the Country Music Hall of Fame, laughing and sharing funny George stories and reminiscing about all the wonderful memories we’ve had together. We even took photos together, and now he’s gone. My heart is broken. I’m hurting so much for Jamie. I love them both dearly, and I will forever cherish those memories.” - Nancy Jones

“I first met John in Florida at the Suwanee River Country Fest. I was touring with Josh Turner, and I could not have been more surprised. I stepped off the bus in the morning and there stood John Anderson, in the flesh, holding an enormous Osceola turkey by its legs! It was quite the sight! He was grinning from ear to ear. He wanted to show Josh the bird and he was about to knock on the door. It was the best possible way to meet one of your country



John Anderson - 1954-2026 (Photo by Alysse Gafkjen)

music heroes! He was an absolute larger than life character in every sense, and I relished every moment I got to be around Him. Rest easy, John!” - Jim VanCleve Appalachian Road Show

“The world lost one of the most unique voices to ever grace a country song yesterday. I had the pleasure of sitting on John Anderson’s bus one night after a show just passing the guitar back-and-forth, singing some of our favorite country songs to

each other. I’ll never forget what he said to us that night... ‘I like you boys, y’all are old-school!’ RIP John Anderson.” - Heath Wright

RICOCHÉ “John Anderson – legend an amazing songwriter. God bless you, John!”

– Andrew Farriss “I simply can’t believe that John Anderson is no longer with us. He was truly one of the voices that shaped my childhood.

‘Swingin’ and ‘Seminole Wind’ were on the radio constantly at our house. He was a lyrical stylist in every sense of the word. My musical world was a better place simply because he was a part of it. Rest easy, sir.”

– Kody Norris The Kody Norris Show

“Say hello to heaven John Anderson. We sure had a great time in the early ‘80s cutting the song “In The Jailhouse Now”.

– David Frizzell “John & I didn’t cross paths directly at different events, but I always admired his unique style and sound. He had a great image that made country what it is and remembered for. His part is ageless!” - Janie Fricke

“I love artists that are identifiable the moment you hear you hear them. It’s a rare gift and John was a perfect example. I became an instant fan before we moved to town. In his case, it’s no cliché to say that he was truly one of a kind. I’m so proud to have worked with him on the road and become friends. His passing leaves a gaping hole in originality. May God bless his family in this hour of sadness. We’ll all miss you, brother.” - T. Graham Brown

“Today I’m shocked, stunned, and deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of John Anderson. I saw John Sunday evening at the Country Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. We talked for several minutes and exchanged phone numbers to get together soon. He was upbeat and looked great. I am a big fan of his singing and will miss his friendship forever.”

– William Lee Golden The Oak Ridge Boys

TDOC work to apprehend escaped inmate Jacob Allen Morley from sports-Military 2

count and search of the facility. Further review of security cameras confirmed Morley breached the perimeter fence and exited the facility in his TDOC uniform. TDOC is committed to protecting the safety of the public and is asking the community to immediately contact law enforcement with any sightings or information.

Morley is serving a life sentence for a conviction in Carter County for first-degree murder, aggravated burglary, tampering with evidence, evading arrest, and vandalism. He is 28 years old, 5’11” tall, and weighs approximately 240 pounds. He has brown hair and green eyes.

Memphis-Army Kickoff Set for 7 p.m. on ESPNU

IRVING, Texas – Details for Memphis football’s week nine matchup against Army on Oct. 31 have been announced.

The Tigers will host Army on Halloween night at 7 p.m., with the game airing on ESPNU.

BUY TICKETS NOW

Single-game tickets can be purchased online or by calling the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331. For group tickets and experiences, please contact the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331.

For premium seating experiences, please contact the Memphis Athletic Fund at MAFpremium@memphis.edu.