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See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF NSF “TRUTHY” GRANT

I applaud Chairman Lamar Smith and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for launching an investigation into the National Science Foundation’s nearly \$1 million grant to the “Truthy” project. In its own words, Truthy aims “to detect political smears, astroturfing, misinformation, and other social pollution” on Twitter.¹ Its stated end goal is to “mitigate the diffusion of false and misleading ideas, [and] detect hate speech and subversive propaganda.”² Among other things, Truthy also uses taxpayer dollars to evaluate the “partisanship” of Americans’ Twitter accounts.

The federal government has no business getting involved in a project that aspires to be the arbiter of political statements made on social media or assesses individuals’ political leanings. Furthermore, this wasteful project diverts scarce federal funds away from research serving a genuine scientific need. I commend the House Science Committee for performing necessary oversight and standing up for the ideals of free speech and open, democratic discourse.

¹ <http://truthy.indiana.edu/about/>.

² http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1101743&HistoricalAwards=false.