

UsChat users in US sue Donald Trump for blocking app

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Body

LOS ANGELES, USA.- WeChat users in the United States filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump in an attempt to block an executive order that would prohibit access in the country to the hugely popular Chinese messaging app.

In the lawsuit, they asked a federal judge to prevent Trump's executive order from entering into force, stating that it would violate freedom of expression, the free exercise of religion, and other constitutional rights of users in the United States.

We believe there is an interest in the First Amendment to provide continued access to that app and its functionality for the Chinese-American community, Michael Bien, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers, said Saturday.

On August 6, President Trump ordered extensive but vague bans on transactions with Chinese weChat owners and another popular app, TikTok, ensuring they are a risk to U.S. national security, foreign policy, and the economy.

Both executive orders, one for each app, come into effect on September 20, or 45 days after they have been issued, the orders require that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who is also naming as suing in the complaint, define the prohibited transactions by then.

experts say the orders seem to have the intention of banning WeChat and TikTok from app stores operated by Apple and Google, making it more difficult to use in the United States.

TikTok, owned by Chinese company ByteDance, said Saturday that he plans to create a legal challenge against the executive order Trump issued against the popular video app.

WeChat, which has more than 1 billion users, among Americans with no ties to China.

With information from LNP

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