

# Trump tests disinformation policies with new Pelosi video

Not that Pelosi video, a different one

By Makena Kelly | @kellymakena | Feb 7, 2020, 2:28pm EST



Photo by MANDEL NGAN/AFP via Getty Images

A new video promoted by President Trump is testing the altered media limits put in place at Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, offering a provocatively edited version of an incident at the end of the recent State of the Union.

At the close of Tuesday night's State of the Union, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi publicly tore up her copy of the president's speech as a symbolic rebuke. The action has incensed Republicans who see it as disrespectful to the people named in the speech, which include a former Tuskegee Airman and a single-mother family whose daughter received a scholarship that night.

But [a new video](#) promoted by Trump across multiple channels shows an altered chronology of that event, with Pelosi tearing up the speech in immediate response to individual stories. That's in line with Republicans' symbolic argument, but has struck many Democrats as a misleading edit, and a perfect case study for platforms' newly published policies on altered media.

A Facebook spokesperson told *The Verge* that the clip does not violate its new rules against deepfakes. A Twitter spokesperson noted that the platform's most recent deepfakes policy does not go into effect until March, and declined to say whether it would apply to the video tweeted by Trump. YouTube said the reposts of the video did not violate the platform's community guidelines.



**Cristiano Lima**   
@viaCristiano

Facebook spox tussling with top Pelosi aide over an edited video tweeted by Trump of Pelosi ripping up his SOTU speech



**Drew Hammill**  · 1h  
The American people know that the President has no qualms about lying to them – but it is a shame to see Twitter and Facebook, sources of news for millions, do the same.



**Doug Sovern**  · 19h  
This very cleverly (and deceptively) edited video just tweeted out by @realDonaldTrump savages @SpeakerPelosi for tearing up his #SOTU speech, and sure appears to violate @Twitter's new ban on videos that are fabricated or altered to mislead. [twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...](#)

2 · 15 · 49



**Drew Hammill**  · 1h  
The latest fake video of Speaker Pelosi is deliberately designed to mislead and lie to the American people, and every day that these platforms refuse to take it down is another reminder that they care more about their shareholders' interests than the public's interests.

1 · 11 · 36



**Andy Stone**   
@andymstone

Replying to @Drew\_Hammill  
Sorry, are you suggesting the President didn't make those remarks and the Speaker didn't rip the speech?

12:41 PM · Feb 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App



**Drew Hammill**  · 57m  
to @andymstone  
Let are you living on? this is deceptively altered. take it down.

1 · 18

10:53 AM · Feb 7, 2020

 19

 Reply

 Share this Tweet

Read 2 replies

Pelosi's chief of staff, Drew Hammill, responded Friday on Twitter to Trump's post which has garnered over 3 million views as of publication. "The American people know that the President has no qualms about lying to them – but it is a shame to see Twitter and Facebook, sources of news for millions, do the same," he said.

Hammill continued, "The latest fake video of Speaker Pelosi is deliberately designed to mislead and lie to the American people, and every day that these platforms refuse to take it down is another reminder that they care more about their shareholders' interests than the public's interests."

Shortly after Hammill made his statement, other House Democrats from Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) to Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) fired off their own messages demanding that Twitter remove the "misleading video."

"Social media platforms are a place where people come for news & information. They need to have certain standards," [Khanna said](#). "Falsity has never been part of our 1st Amendment tradition."

As the 2020 presidential election approaches, Facebook and Twitter have published their own policies on deepfakes and edited videos like this Pelosi clip. [Facebook's policy](#) only affects videos that were created by artificial intelligence or machine learning algorithms that would "likely mislead" someone. [Twitter announced its own rules](#) this week that don't take effect until March. But its rules state that manipulated media that is "likely to impact public safety or cause serious harm" could be labeled or removed.

Those policies were crafted in part because of deceptively altered video of Pelosi that went viral on social media last year. In May of last year, Trump posted a video of Pelosi that made it appear as though she was slurring her words. That video was posted across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other platforms and quickly racked up millions of views. YouTube promptly removed it, but the video is still [available to view on Trump's Twitter feed](#). Facebook's new deepfake policy wouldn't be cause for it to be removed either.

**Updated 2/7/20 at 4:28PM ET:** YouTube said the videos did not violate its rules.

THE VERGE

Terms of Use · Privacy Notice · Cookie Policy · Do Not Sell My Personal Info · Licensing FAQ · Accessibility · Platform Status · Contact · Tip Us · Community Guidelines · About · Ethics Statement

VOX MEDIA

Advertise with us  
Jobs @ Vox Media

© 2021 Vox Media, LLC. All Rights Reserved