

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman
Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy,
Antitrust and Consumer Rights
425 Dirksen Senate Building
DC 20510
Washington DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington

By Email

18 January 2022

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Grassley

RE: American Innovation and Choice Online Act

It certainly looks like the US has started the year with an antitrust bang, continuing the great work undertaken in 2021 to rein in Big Tech. We also remain encouraged by the co-operation and collaboration with Europe to set a global standard in tech regulation.

I am reaching out ahead of the mark up of the bipartisan **American Innovation and Choice Online Act**. To recap, I am the CEO of Kelkoo Group, a comparison shopping service that was on track to become a \$1.37bn company before Google's self-preferencing took us to the cliff edge. Overnight, choice and competition were snuffed out, leaving consumers poorer and small businesses like ours struggling for survival. The US is our fifth biggest market however, our growth remains stunted by the ongoing systematic market abuse.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your bipartisan support of the **American Innovation and Choice Online Act** which we believe has the potential to be a gamechanger in tackling anticompetitive behaviour. There are some underlying provisions that will be the key to restoring choice and competition in the shopping market. In short, the self-preferencing section (**Section 2 (b) Unlawful Conduct (6)**) must be kept in the final Bill at all costs. This speaks to the crux of the problem we have highlighted above – without it, Big Tech will simply continue to destroy small businesses and penalise consumers.

I am readily available to provide further insights and testimony as and when required. I remain at your disposal.



Richard Stables
CEO, Kelkoo Group