



Meta could avoid antitrust scrutiny thanks to market cap decline

by ALEC SCHEMMEL

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WASHINGTON (TND) — Antitrust battles have become an unofficial path for tech industry critics to reign in and regulate companies.

One of those companies targeted in a bundle of new bipartisan antitrust bills is Facebook's Meta, which saw its market cap shrink to below \$600 billion this week. Coincidentally, that is the number House lawmakers chose as the threshold to determine which companies can be held liable to the provisions in their package of antitrust bills targeting Big Tech.

The company's market cap took a \$250 billion hit since it reported last week its user growth had shrunk from the previous quarter despite increasing 5% year-over-year, according to [Reuters](#).

If Meta remains below the \$600 billion market cap threshold, it would be able to avoid the obstacles its larger peers, like Amazon, Alphabet, Apple and Microsoft, will be forced to face, according to [CNBC](#).

The bills include provisions to deter conflicts of interest, discriminatory behavior from dominant platforms, and other anti-competitive behavior.

According to [CNBC](#), if Meta were to return above the \$600 billion market cap threshold, one of the bills, the [Platform Competition and Opportunity Act](#), could be a major obstacle. The bill makes it harder for dominating platforms to acquire younger companies that could become potential rivals, the outlet reported.

In a lawsuit last year, which was ultimately dismissed, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) did not acknowledge Facebook as a competitor to other social media and networking apps like LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube, according to the [CATO Institute](#). The agency asserted they were not acceptable substitutes for Facebook, because they didn't connect users in the same manner.

For many tech industry critics in Congress, like Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., legislation, like what has been unveiled in the House, is an avenue to prove the monopoly status of Facebook's Meta.

“Anybody on the internet knows that Facebook has monopoly power,” Warren tweeted after the FTC dismissed its suit against Facebook. “They control 85% of social network traffic, bulldoze competition, and undermine our democracy. We need stronger antitrust laws to #BreakUpBigTech and finally unwind mergers like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.”