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RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

March 11, 2021

Mark Zuckerberg  
Chairman and CEO  
Facebook, Inc.  
1601 Willow Rd.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Mr. Zuckerberg:

Energy and Commerce Republicans recently unveiled our “Big Tech Accountability Platform” as a framework to bring much-needed reform to Big Tech. Our Platform is guided by four principles: 1) increasing meaningful **transparency**; 2) enhancing oversight and **accountability**; 3) pushing for **consistency** and objectivity; and 4) exploring **competition** issues so innovation is unleashed, not quashed. As we prepare for your appearance before the House Energy and Commerce Committee later this month, please provide written answers and any related documentation to the following questions no later than March 24, 2021:

#### Big Tech Responsibility:

1. As it relates to Facebook’s content policies, please answer the following:
  - a. What process does Facebook undertake to determine whether content on its platform violates its policies and is any outside person or third party involved in that process? If so, please identify such outside person or third party and how they are involved.
  - b. What process does Facebook undertake to determine whether a user should be deplatformed and is any outside person or third party involved in that process? If so, please identify such outside person or third party and how they are involved.
  - c. When content is flagged or reported by users, what process does Facebook undertake to determine whether such content violates its policies? Please explain.
  - d. Does Facebook have an appeal process to challenge content decisions or decisions to suspend or deplatform users? If yes, please describe such process.

2. Since January 2020, please list every Republican public official—federal, state, or local—Facebook has suspended or deplatformed.
3. Since January 2020, please list every Democrat public official—federal, state, or local—Facebook has suspended or deplatformed.
4. Since January 2020, as it relates to heads of government and world leaders, please identify each account Facebook has suspended or deplatformed and identify the specific policy for such decisions.
5. Without disclosing personally identifiable information, please disclose any content removed by Facebook related to Black Lives Matter riots and identify the number of accounts suspended or disabled for posting such content.
6. On June 1, 2020, now-Vice President Kamala Harris posted “If you’re able to, chip in now to the Minnesota Freedom Fund to help post bail for those protesting on the ground in Minnesota” and linked to an ActBlue Fund. Please explain how this post does not violate Facebook’s policies.
7. As it relates to news articles on Facebook, please answer the following:
  - a. Does Facebook reduce the distribution of every news article pending review by third-party fact checkers? If no, please explain Facebook’s process for determining which news articles should have their distribution reduced.
  - b. On October 14, 2020, Facebook decided to reduce distribution of a New York Post article titled “Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad” pending review of Facebook’s third-party fact checkers. Please provide an update as to the third-party fact checkers determination.
8. Does Facebook have a process to communicate, consult, and coordinate with law enforcement to address illicit content? If so, please explain.
9. Does Facebook have a process to preserve evidence of illegal content on its platform to assist law enforcement? If so, please explain.

Big Tech Power:

10. Does Facebook coordinate with Google and Twitter on any content decisions? If so, please identify the categories of such content decisions.
11. Does Facebook coordinate with Google and Twitter on any decisions related to suspending or deplatforming users? If so, please explain.

12. As it relates to former-President Trump, please answer the following:
  - a. Did Facebook coordinate with Google, Twitter, or any other tech company to make content decisions about his posts? If so, please explain.
  - b. Did Facebook coordinate with Google, Twitter, or any other tech company to suspend or remove his account? If so, explain.
13. Did Facebook coordinate with Google, Twitter, or any other tech company to make content decisions related to Black Lives Matter riots? If so, please explain.
14. Did Facebook coordinate with Google, Twitter, or any other tech company to suppress the October 14, 2020 New York Post article titled "Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad"? If so, please explain.
15. Does Facebook alter its algorithms to drive certain content or narratives based on the political leaning of such content? If so, please explain.
16. Please explain any efforts Facebook has undertaken to support local news and traditional media.

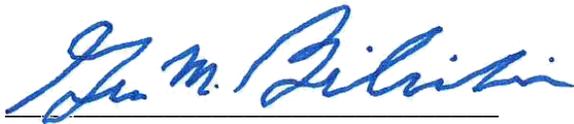
Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Bob Latta  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Communications and  
Technology



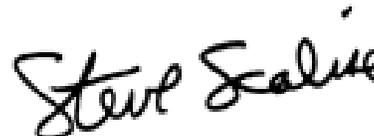
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protections  
and Commerce



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



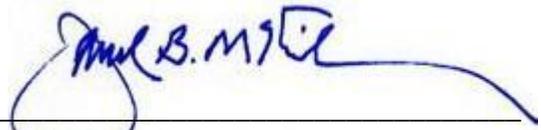
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



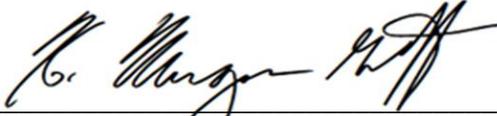
Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



David McKinley  
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress



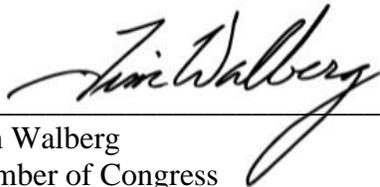
Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



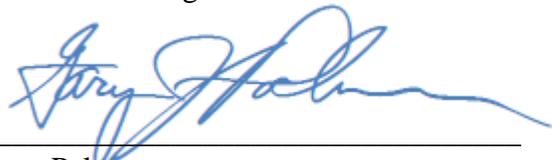
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress



Neal Dunn  
Member of Congress



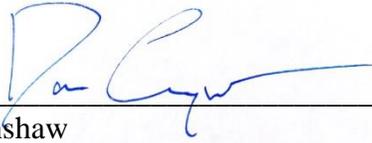
John Curtis  
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



Greg Pence  
Member of Congress



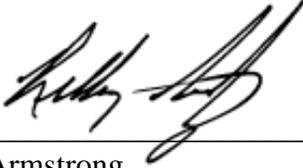
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Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



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John Joyce  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress