

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
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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

October 25, 2021

Shou Zi Chew  
CEO  
TikTok  
5800 Bristol Pkwy  
Culver City, CA 90034

Mr. Chew:

Energy and Commerce Republicans are leading in Congress to hold Big Tech accountable through our “Big Tech Accountability Platform.” We are deeply concerned with Big Tech’s censorship, including censorship of conservatives and anyone who disagrees with liberal ideology. Free speech is fundamental to our country. It should be cherished and defended, not undermined. We are also troubled by the harm Big Tech is causing to children. To that end, we are interested in any documents and related information regarding any internal research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the effect its product has on children’s mental health. Accordingly, please respond to the following requests no later than November 8, 2021:

1. Earlier this year, the Chinese government took a stake and board seat in TikTok owner ByteDance’s Chinese entity, Beijing ByteDance Technology.<sup>1</sup> This renews prior concerns about TikTok and its relationship to China. Given this development, please answer the following:
  - a. Has the Chinese government directed TikTok to take any action on its platform, including censoring certain content? If yes, please disclose any action TikTok has taken on behalf of the Chinese government.

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<sup>1</sup> Juro Osawa and Shair Oster, *Beijing Tightens Grip on ByteDance by Quietly Taking Stake, China Board Seat*, The Information (August 16, 2021), available at <https://www.theinformation.com/articles/beijing-tightens-grip-on-bytedance-by-quietly-taking-stake-china-board-seat>

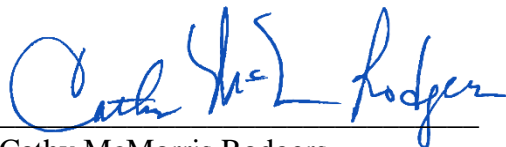
- b. Has the Chinese government sought any data on American users? If yes, please disclose when any request was made, whether TikTok complied with such requests, and, if TikTok did, identify the categories of information TikTok shared with the Chinese government.
    - c. Has TikTok censored any content in anticipation of objections by the Chinese government to such content?
  2. Please produce complete copies of the following:
    - a. Any internal research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the effect TikTok's products have on children's mental health.
    - b. Any internal research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the effect TikTok's products have on children's mental health for ages under 13.
    - c. Any internal research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the effect TikTok's products have on children's mental health for ages 13 to 18.
    - d. Any internal research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the effect TikTok's products have on user's mental health for ages 18 and older.
    - e. Any internal research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the effect TikTok's products have on the health and well-being of children, including risks of child exploitation and trafficking.
    - f. Any internal communications, including memorandums, emails, or other internal communications among TikTok employees, or its parent company ByteDance, including outside contractors (e.g., content moderators) related to the effect of TikTok's products on children's mental health for ages under 13.
    - g. Any internal communications, including memorandums, emails, or other internal communications among TikTok employees, or its parent company ByteDance, including outside contractors (e.g., content moderators) related to the effect of TikTok's products on children's mental health for ages under 13 to 18.
    - h. Any internal communications, including memorandums, emails, or other internal communications among TikTok employees, or its parent company ByteDance, including outside contractors (e.g., content moderators) related to the effect of TikTok's products on user's mental health for ages 18 and older.
  3. Please identify any outside entity TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has contracted with, is in the process of contracting with, or has plans to contract with to

conduct research or produce studies on the effect TikTok's products have on user's mental health for each age range delineated above.

4. Please produce complete copies of any research or study conducted by outside entities on behalf of TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, regarding the effect of TikTok's products on user's mental health for each age range delineated above.
5. Please provide any research or study TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the impact competitors' products have on children's mental health for ages 13 and under.
6. Please provide any research or studies TikTok, or its parent company ByteDance, has conducted on the impact competitors' products have on children's mental health for ages 13 to 18.

If you have any questions, please contact Bijan (BJ) Koohmaraie, Tim Kurth, and Kate O'Connor at (202) 225-3641. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Thank you,



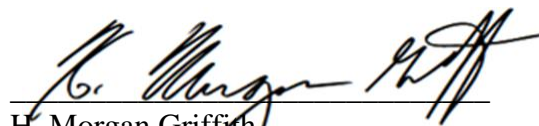
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Robert E. Latta  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology



Gus Bilirakis  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce



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