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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 29, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

As you are aware, I have a longstanding interest in protecting children from online exploitation and ensuring that technology companies maintain effective guardrails for minors when using their products.¹ On April 16, 2025, I wrote to Meta outlining whistleblower allegations that Meta used targeted ads towards teenagers based on their emotional state.² In that letter, I requested information, documents, and communications regarding Meta's use of targeted ads towards children on its platform.³ To date, Meta has failed to fully and completely respond to my questions and document requests.

Moreover, on September 2, 2025, I sent a letter to Meta regarding its failure to protect teens on its Horizon Worlds platform from bullying, sexual harassment, and inappropriate interactions with adults.⁴ In that letter, I asked that Meta provide full and complete responses to my April 16, 2025, letter, provide information about the steps the company has taken to comply with the *Children's Online Privacy Protection Act* (COPPA), and provide details on what safeguards Meta has in place to protect children using its Horizon Worlds platform.⁵ Then, on September 16, 2025, I, along with my colleagues, wrote to Meta concerning whistleblower allegations that Meta willfully misrepresented the mental health risks, sexual exploitation issues, underage use, and other abuses against young people that are rampant on its platforms.⁶ To date, Meta has failed to fully and completely answer and provide responsive documents to the Committee's oversight requests.

More recently, according to reports, a Meta Engineering Manager named Josh Felker, whose responsibilities reportedly included "developing digital experiences for children," was arrested following an undercover sting operation and has been charged with disseminating indecent material to

¹ See e.g., Letter from Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc., (Apr. 16, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_meta_-_targeting-teens.pdf; Letter from Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, et. al. to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc., (Sep. 2, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_et_al_tometatargetedteenshorizon.pdf; Press Release, Chairman Charles E. Grassley, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, *Grassley, Durbin Introduce Landmark Legislative Package to Protect Kids Online*, (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/rep/releases/grassley-durbin-introduce-landmark-legislative-package-to-protect-kids-online>; Letter from Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, to Michelle C. DeLaune, President, Chief Executive Officer, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, (Mar. 2, 2026), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_ncmec_-_2026_cybertipline_data.pdf; Press Release, Chairman Charles E. Grassley, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, *Grassley Releases New and Disturbing Information on Online Child Exploitation, Presses Tech Giants for Answers*, (Apr. 9, 2026), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-releases-new-and-disturbing-information-on-online-child-exploitation-presses-tech-giants-for-answers>; Press Release, Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Senate Passes Grassley-Backed Bills to Help Keep Kids Safe Online*, (Jul. 30, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/senate-passes-grassley-backed-bills-to-help-keep-kids-safe-online>.

² Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc., (April 16, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_meta_-_targeting-teens.pdf.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc. (Sep. 2, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_et_al_tometatargetedteenshorizon.pdf.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, et. al., to Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc. (Sep. 16, 2025), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/whistleblowers.pdf>.

minors and endangering the welfare of a child.⁷ Felker, when asked whether the age of the individual he was reportedly messaging was “12, 13 ish,” stated “Yeah.”⁸ Felker went on to reportedly state that, “I did tell her at one point like even though inappropriate things had already gone on that I almost like I just wish I could be her dad...”⁹ Additionally, the reporting alleges and video footage shows that after being confronted with Discord chat logs with someone whom he thought was a young teenage girl, Felker stated that this “had happened once before with another girl underage. So I think that spurred this on...”¹⁰

If accurate, these allegations raise significant questions regarding Meta’s internal governance, employee screening, trust and safety culture, and controls for employees who work on products and experiences designed for children. They also raise questions about Meta’s processes for identifying, investigating, and responding to employee misconduct.

The foxes must not be allowed to guard the hen house.

So that Congress may conduct objective and independent oversight of Meta’s internal governance, employee screening, trust and safety culture, and processes for identifying, investigating, and responding to employee misconduct, please provide answers to the following no later than August 12, 2026:

1. Are the allegations raised in the *New York Post* reporting in regard to Felker’s job title and role at Meta/Facebook accurate? Please address each allegation and their accuracy, or lack thereof.
2. Describe the background screening and vetting procedures performed during the hiring process for its employees, including whether criminal history checks, reference checks, and other screenings are conducted.
3. Did Felker have access to non-public user data, internal systems involving the accounts of minors, or product design affecting children? If so, please describe the access.
4. When did Meta first become aware of the alleged misconduct and what actions did it take upon learning of the allegations?

⁷ Brandon Cruz, *Meta worker who developed ‘digital experiences for kids’ admits to trying to sext child in undercover sting* (Jul. 20, 2026), NY POST, <https://nypost.com/2026/07/20/us-news/meta-worker-who-developed-digital-experiences-for-kids-admits-to-trying-to-sext-child-in-undercover-nyc-sting/>; Predator Poachers Long Island, *Meta Worker Who Developed ‘Digital Experiences For Kids’ ARRESTED For Disturbing Messages To Minor* (July 20, 2026), YOUTUBE, <https://youtu.be/RboHlKvjIDk?si=YpySMbKt7OnE5P4T>.

⁸ Brandon Cruz, *Meta worker who developed ‘digital experiences for kids’ admits to trying to sext child in undercover sting* (Jul. 20, 2026), NY POST, <https://nypost.com/2026/07/20/us-news/meta-worker-who-developed-digital-experiences-for-kids-admits-to-trying-to-sext-child-in-undercover-nyc-sting/>; Predator Poachers Long Island, *Meta Worker Who Developed ‘Digital Experiences For Kids’ ARRESTED For Disturbing Messages To Minor* (July 20, 2026), at 47:33, YOUTUBE, <https://youtu.be/RboHlKvjIDk?si=YpySMbKt7OnE5P4T>.

⁹ Brandon Cruz, *Meta worker who developed ‘digital experiences for kids’ admits to trying to sext child in undercover sting* (Jul. 20, 2026), NY POST, <https://nypost.com/2026/07/20/us-news/meta-worker-who-developed-digital-experiences-for-kids-admits-to-trying-to-sext-child-in-undercover-nyc-sting/>; Predator Poachers Long Island, *Meta Worker Who Developed ‘Digital Experiences For Kids’ ARRESTED For Disturbing Messages To Minor* (July 20, 2026), at 50:52, YOUTUBE, <https://youtu.be/RboHlKvjIDk?si=YpySMbKt7OnE5P4T>.

¹⁰ Brandon Cruz, *Meta worker who developed ‘digital experiences for kids’ admits to trying to sext child in undercover sting* (Jul. 20, 2026), NY POST, <https://nypost.com/2026/07/20/us-news/meta-worker-who-developed-digital-experiences-for-kids-admits-to-trying-to-sext-child-in-undercover-nyc-sting/>; Predator Poachers Long Island, *Meta Worker Who Developed ‘Digital Experiences For Kids’ ARRESTED For Disturbing Messages To Minor* (July 20, 2026), at 49:46, YOUTUBE, <https://youtu.be/RboHlKvjIDk?si=YpySMbKt7OnE5P4T>.

5. Did Felker have any arrests, internal complaints, or allegations raised against him for sexual misconduct against minors? If so, provide all records.¹¹
6. Does Meta have any registered sex offenders currently employed at the company? If so, provide a list of names, titles, and responsibilities of all current employees that are registered sex offenders.
7. Provide a list of all internal complaints, arrests, and allegations of sexual misconduct towards minors made against Meta employees in the last ten years. Provide all records.
8. What steps does Meta take to vet employees that develop “digital experiences for children?” Provide all records.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. Should you have questions, please contact Tucker Akin on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

¹¹ “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).