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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6275

March 02, 2026

<u>VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION</u>

Michelle C. DeLaune
President, Chief Executive Officer
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Dear Ms. DeLaune:

For over a decade, I've led efforts, through my oversight and bipartisan legislation, to ensure that federal agencies and private companies are committed to protecting our nation's children—and to hold those that abuse children fully accountable to the law.[1]

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) continues to serve as an important law enforcement partner in the fight against online child exploitation. As you know, under federal law, certain companies, known as electronic service providers (ESPs), have a duty to report child exploitation cases, including instances of child sexual abuse material, "as soon as reasonably possible" to NCMEC.[2] NCMEC then serves as a clearinghouse for this data using a system called the CyberTipline to share it with federal and state law enforcement and INTERPOL.[3]

However, law enforcement can only act if NCMEC is provided with reliable data that can be used to locate, arrest, and prosecute online predators. Data related to a suspect's location is especially crucial—this information is essential to NCMEC's ability to refer the case to the correct state, federal, or international law enforcement agency.[4] However, according to NCMEC's 2024 CyberTipline Report, "there are no legal requirements regarding . . . what information an ESP must include in a CyberTipline report."[5] In 2024, approximately 10% of

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[1] *See e.g.,* Letter from Lamar Smith, Chairman, House Comm. on the Judiciary, Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman, House Subcomm. on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security to the Hon. Patti B. Sarris, Chairwoman, U.S. Sentencing Commission, (Feb. 14, 2012), https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/amendment-process/public-hearings-and-meetings/20120215/Testimony_15_Grassley_Smith_Sensenbrenner.pdf; Press Release, *Senate Passes Grassley-Feinstein Bill to Combat Human Trafficking,* (Sept. 12, 2017), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/senate-passes-grassley-feinstein-bill-combat-human-trafficking; Press Release, *Senate Passes Grassley, Feinstein Bill to Support Victims of Human Trafficking*, (Dec. 21, 2022), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/senate-passes-grassley-feinstein-bill-to-support-victims-of-human-trafficking; Press Release, *Grassley-Ossoff Bill to Prevent Child Sex Crimes Passes Senate*, (March 9, 2023), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-ossoff-bill-to-prevent-child-sex-crimes-passes-senate; Letter from Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. 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; 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., (Sept. 2, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_et_altometatargetedteenshorizon.pdf; Letter from Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, et. al. to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer, Meta Inc., (Sept. 16, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/whistleblowers.pdf; Press Release, *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.
[2] 18 U.S.C. § 2258A.
[3] *Id.*
[4] On file with Comm. staff.
[5] National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, *2024 CyberTipline Report*, (last accessed Feb. 2025), https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline/cybertiplinedata.

NCMEC's CyberTipline reports "contained so little information that it was not possible for NCMEC to determine where the offense occurred or the appropriate law enforcement agency to resolve the report."[6]

Cooperation between ESPs and NCMEC is vital to tracking down suspects. It's even more urgent now.

Through hearings that I've led as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I and my colleagues have exposed the dire threats facing children online. On December 9, 2025, your staff testified to Congress that NCMEC was alerted with an average of more than 1,400 reports a day related to children at imminent risk for harm online.[7] Your staff's testimony also highlighted that A.I.-related cases are skyrocketing.[8] For instance, predators can now use A.I. to manipulate innocuous images of children and transform them into sexually explicit media.[9] Reportedly, in just the first six months of 2025, NCMEC's CyberTipline received 440,419 reports related to A.I. cases.[10] Thankfully, according to your staff's testimony, the TAKE IT DOWN Act, signed by President Trump in May 2025, will provide additional tools for law enforcement to ensure these images are removed and those responsible face federal prosecution.[11]

While the full 2025 CyberTipline data has not been released, my office was provided with information that indicates certain ESP companies continue to provide NCMEC with insufficient data related to suspected child abuse.[12]

So that Congress may conduct oversight of this important matter, please respond to the following requests with complete and unredacted records, no later than March 16, 2026:

1. What companies were regularly contacted by NCMEC regarding poor reporting of child sexual abuse material or evidence of attempted child exploitation, enticement, or sextortion?

2. What changes or policies were developed by ESPs in response to feedback provided by NCMEC and/or law enforcement in 2025 or 2026? If no changes or policies were implemented by certain ESPs, please explain in detail why the company declined and how it impacts reporting.

3. Location information associated with evidence of child exploitation is especially crucial in locating and arresting suspects. What specific data, such as IP addresses or GPS logs, does NCMEC believe is most important to include in future reports? Explain in detail.

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[6] *Id.*
[7] Testimony of Lauren Coffren, Executive Director, Exploited Children Division, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, "Protecting Our Children Online Against the Evolving Offender," (Dec. 9, 2025), https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/57fece5a-a8d8-35e9-aac0-294cf4561020/2025-12-09_Testimony_Coffren.pdf.
[8] *Id.*
[9] *Id.*
[10] *Id.*
[11] *Id.*
[12] On file with Comm. staff.

4. Recent reports indicate that child sex abuse material has been found in certain AI training data.[13] According to these reports, using abuse material to train an AI model "could risk shaping a model's underlying behaviors, potentially improving its ability to digitally alter and sexualize photos of real children, or create entirely new images of sexualized children that never existed."[14] Are companies thoroughly investigating and reporting instances of child sex abuse material used or created by their AI models? Describe in detail and provide all records.

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

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

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[13] Riley Griffin & Matt Day, *Amazon Found 'High Volume' Of Child Sex Abuse Material in AI Training Data*, BLOOMBERG, (Jan. 29, 2026), https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-01-29/amazon-found-child-sex-abuse-in-ai-training-data.
[14] *Id.*