

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2021

Evan Spiegel
CEO
Snap Inc.
2772 Donald Douglas Loop North
Santa Monica, California 90405

Dear Mr. Spiegel,

We write to you with concerns about the use of your popular application by children under the age of thirteen. This is a clear violation of your terms of service. The powerful influence your platform has warrants decisive action that protects against inappropriate content reaching our most impressionable populations, and in particular, children who do not yet have the capacity to understand this content without parental guidance.

With over five-hundred million global monthly active users, Snapchat has become a routine mode of communication and is now a core part of our social fabric. While your platform has enhanced our ability to communicate and remain connected to one another, it also comes with harms. Congress should remain committed to laying the foundations for companies like yours and all other future industry leaders to succeed here in the United States. However, that ideal must be weighed against the harms our children may be exposed to online.

These landmark technological advancements come at some cost to society. Increased exposure to sexually inappropriate content has specifically been linked to Snapchat and our children are those most impacted by these negative experiences. While it is easy to say this is the responsibility of parents to police, Big Tech currently does not offer the transparency required to ensure parents have the information they need to make informed decisions. We also know children are only a few clicks away from using your websites on any phone or computer and believe you bear responsibility to provide a safe platform for them.

We are especially concerned by recent reports suggesting a high concentration of children ages thirteen and under that were surveyed across the United States are actively using your platform, despite this being a clear violation of your terms of service. Even more concerning is reporting that suggests minors experienced the highest concentration of sexually explicit interactions on your platform than most other social media companies. We acknowledge the challenging task of policing your site for underage or fake accounts, but increased attention must be placed on ensuring underage children are not using these sites and exposed to inappropriate content.

Given these concerns, we kindly request responses to the following questions by July 16, 2021:

1. What specific steps do you take to identify an underage user that is violating your terms of service?
2. What specific steps do you take or are planning to take to ensure underage users cannot re-register under another false identification after you determined such users violated your terms of serve?
3. What specific steps do you take to accurately verify a potential user's identity before they can successfully register on your platform? Are there more actions that you believe you can take to strengthen your verification methods to protect against underage users and from adversaries attempting to undermine our American ideals through Snapchat? If so, what are these actions?
4. What steps do you take or are you planning to take to protect younger users against cyber-bullying and sexually offensive content? When a parent reaches out to Snapchat for help related to such content, what steps do you take?
5. What steps do you understand Congress should take to help protect our children from offensive content on your platform and from foreign adversaries using your sites to influence American society?

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important matter. We look forward to your partnership in solving these pressing issues.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis



John Curtis