

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 1, 2021

Susan Wojcicki  
CEO  
YouTube  
901 Cherry Avenue  
San Bruno, California 94066

Dear Ms. Wojcicki,

We write to you with concerns about the use of your popular platform 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 two billion global monthly active users, your company has become a routine mode of communication and is now a core part of our social fabric. While this 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 inappropriate or offensive content has specifically been linked to social media platforms 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 children ages thirteen and under that were surveyed across the United States are actively using YouTube, despite this being a clear violation of your terms of service. 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 access content on YouTube?
3. What specific steps do you take to accurately verify a potential user's identity before they can successfully use YouTube? 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 YouTube? If so, what are these actions?
4. What steps do you take or are you planning to take to protect younger users against sexually offensive and other type of inappropriate content? When a parent reaches out to YouTube 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 YouTube and from foreign adversaries using this platform 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