

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 17, 2025

Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer
Meta
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Evan Spiegel
Chief Executive Officer
Snap Inc.
3000 31st St., Suite C
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Pavel Durov
Chief Executive Officer
Telegram
71-75 Shelton Street
Covent Garden London, United Kingdom

Mr. Zuckerberg, Mr. Spiegel, and Mr. Durov:

I write to raise serious concerns about the illegal sale of firearms on your platforms and how your companies contribute to youth and community violence. I have heard directly from local law enforcement that activity on your platforms play a direct role in rising levels of youth violence, bullying, suicide, and crime in my district — and you must do more to keep our kids and communities safe. Your companies have a responsibility to go above and beyond the letter of the law and proactively work to increase public safety.

During a recent meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico state and local law enforcement officials reported that guns purchased on your platforms have contributed to gun-related violence in our communities, particularly among minors and young adults. In March of this year, a mass shooting in Las Cruces, New Mexico took the lives of three teenagers and shattered our community. Of the four gunmen charged, three were minors and evidence suggests that they may have been attempting to illegally sell guns through social media.¹ Leaders from New Mexico's law enforcement agencies have repeatedly told me that many of the guns recovered from crime scenes are stolen from local residents and sold illegally on your social media platforms.

New Mexico experiences the 4th highest rate of gun-related deaths in the US. In 2023, my home state saw a rate of 25.3 firearm-related deaths per 100,000 people.² But New Mexico is not alone in this struggle, the United States continues to see rising rates of gun-related deaths, with concerning high numbers for children and teens. In 2023 alone, 4,455 children were killed by a firearm — this is by far the leading cause of death among children in America, outpacing car accidents and cancer.³

¹ Shults, Lauren Elizabeth (2025) Las Cruces police chief calls for action on crime involving minors after mass shooting *Las Cruces Sun News* <https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/crime/2025/03/25/las-cruces-police-chief-jeremy-story-calls-for-action-on-violence-crime-involving-minors/82655700007/>

² Gramlich, John (2025) What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S. *Pew Research Center* [https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/03/05/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-us/#:~:text=The%20rate%20of%20gun%20fatalities,\)%20and%20Oklahoma%20\(13.6\).](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/03/05/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-us/#:~:text=The%20rate%20of%20gun%20fatalities,)%20and%20Oklahoma%20(13.6).)

³ (2024) Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the US. *Everytown For Gun Safety* <https://everytownresearch.org/graph/firearms-are-the-leading-cause-of-death-for-american-children-and-teens/>

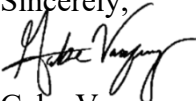
Combating gun violence and illegal gun sales is only one part of solving this complex problem. At a time when roughly half of all American teens are experiencing harassment online and firearms are taking the lives of over 46,000 Americans a year, it is imperative that your companies do everything possible to keep Americans safe.⁴

As more minors are using platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, and Snapchat, it is imperative for you as CEOs to ensure your platforms go beyond merely complying with all relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the illegal sales of firearms. In a study conducted last year, Meta was found to have approved over 230 ads selling firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition on Facebook and Instagram.⁵ Despite these ads being against Meta's stated policy against promoting the use of weapons, hundreds of them were still shown on multiple platforms where individuals were directed to other sites such as Telegram to complete the transaction.⁶ Many of these ads were shown for weeks to months before they were taken down, exposing children to content they should have no access to. You must take a more active role in preventing these sales and other forms of abuse on your sites. You have a responsibility to ensure that your platforms are not cultivating an environment that promotes bullying, violence, or allows minors or other prohibited individuals to illegally access firearms.

To reach this goal, I respectfully request a response by October 17th, 2025 to the following questions:

- How has your platform adapted its policies to more effectively prevent the sale of stolen firearms or sales to prohibited purchasers?
- What additional steps are you taking to prevent minors from purchasing firearms on your site or being routed to third parties to complete the transaction?
- What programs do you use to find and flag potential gun sales on your platform?
- What processes do you have in place to notify law enforcement when you detect an illegal sale of a firearm on your platform?
- When bullying or harassment is detected, what measures do you take to address it?
- When credible threats to harm another person are detected, particularly for minors, what processes do you have in place to notify law enforcement?
- Will you commit to working with all relevant federal, state, local, and/or Tribal law enforcement to address these concerns and keep Americans safe?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress

⁴ Vogels, Emily A. (2022) Teens and Cyberbullying 2022 *Pew Research Center*
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/12/15/teens-and-cyberbullying-2022/>

⁵ (2024) From Glockes to Ghost Guns: Meta Approves Hundreds of Ads Selling Firearms *Tech Transparency Project*
<https://www.techtransparencyproject.org/articles/from-glocks-to-ghost-guns-meta-approves-hundreds-o>

⁶ (2025) Weapons, Ammunition or Explosives *Meta, Transparency Center*
<https://transparency.meta.com/policies/ad-standards/restricted-goods-services/weapons-ammunitions-explosives>