

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2026

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

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

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

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

I write again to raise continued concerns about your companies' insufficient actions to protect teens and young adults, prevent illegal gun sales, and curb youth violence. Recent reporting has shown that social media platforms continue to allow the illegal buying, selling, and trading of weapons by cartels, criminal organizations, and, most concerning, American teenagers. Your companies must do more to keep our kids safe.

Throughout the Southwest, especially in New Mexico, foreign drug cartels target teens through social media and recruit them to act on their behalf, including as traffickers and mules. These criminal organizations use your platforms to incentivize teens to obtain weapons through theft or straw purchases, and then again use social media platforms or peer-to-peer apps to complete the transactions. While you have all shared with my office that your policies do not allow the purchase, sale, or trade of weapons on any of your platforms, it is clear that these policies are not working.

Recent reporting by The New York Times has once again highlighted the widespread issue of illegal gun sales and weapons trafficking that transpire via messaging applications, typically by American high school students and young adults. The reporting details how these teens will use WhatsApp, Telegram, and similar platforms to facilitate weapons trafficking. The reporting notes how easy it is to sidestep internal company policies, specifically "[t]o avoid detection by both the authorities and companies like Meta, the smugglers said, they routinely create and delete group chats, avoid sharing personal information during conversations or gun transactions and admit new members only through referrals."

From Las Cruces to Albuquerque, I work directly with law enforcement agencies in New Mexico that continue to raise concerns about this issue and the link between social media and increasing juvenile crime. In my district, I continue to hear how your platforms, including Snapchat, are utilized to traffic firearms and deadly drugs, promote theft and criminal activity, facilitate cartel

operations, and fuel a dangerous cycle of youth violence. Your failures have deadly consequences for my constituents.

Your companies have the resources to do more to stop this. I urge you to do more than promote ineffective policies and instead work directly with law enforcement, community leaders, and Congress to address these serious and deadly issues. I look forward to your prompt response and continuing to work with you to keep our kids and communities safe.

Sincerely,


Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress