

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

April 29, 2025

Mr. Sundar Pichai
CEO
Alphabet Inc.
Mountain View, California 94043

Dear Mr. Pichai:

I write to express my deep concern with Google's efforts to ensure that our children are safe from online sexual exploitation. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline is the preeminent online mechanism for members of the public and electronic service providers to report incidents of suspected child exploitation. The CyberTipline has received hundreds of millions of reports of online child sexual exploitation, and federal law requires online platforms to report known incidents of child sexual abuse material (child pornography), online enticement and child sex trafficking to NCMEC. Despite this important legal obligation, there has been a notable drop in reports to the CyberTipline from several platforms—including Google.

Last year, my bipartisan legislation—the Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology (REPORT) Act, Pub. L. No. 118-59—was signed into law. This critical bill supports NCMEC in its core mission to protect our children online and assists law enforcement in their investigative efforts. Importantly, the law closed a gap in federal child exploitation laws by mandating that online platforms—including yours—report instances of child sex trafficking and enticement, which was not previously required under federal law. To ensure compliance with this requirement, the REPORT Act also increases the maximum fines for providers who knowingly and willfully fail to submit these reports to NCMEC. Specifically, the law increases the penalty for a first violation from \$150,000 to as much as \$850,000, and subsequent violations from \$300,000 to up to \$1 million.

These reporting obligations are now mandatory, not permissive, and federal law *requires* you to submit reports of online enticement and child sex trafficking to the CyberTipline. Despite these requirements, recent testimony by NCMEC's President and CEO to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism and data provided by NCMEC indicates that there has been a sharp decline in the number of reports that Google has submitted to the CyberTipline since the passage of the REPORT Act. Specifically, in 2024, Google submitted 1,175,084 reports to the CyberTipline, a significant drop from the 1,470,958 reports it submitted in 2023. In total, this decline constitutes a 20% decrease from 2023 to 2024, which is particularly troubling given the REPORT Act's enactment in 2024.

Google has previously had a history of consistent reporting to the CyberTipline, and this notable decrease in reports to NCMEC is both puzzling and deeply troubling. It is crucial that your company fulfill its legal obligations to report these heinous crimes that occur on your platform. Our children deserve nothing less. To that end, please respond to the following questions by **by May 6, 2025**:

1. Why was there such a dramatic drop in the number of reports Google submitted to NCMEC's CyberTipline in 2024?
2. Based on the data you have for 2025 to date as compared to 2024, has there been an increase or decrease in the total number of reports Google has submitted to the CyberTipline this year?
3. NCMEC has also noted that it has observed a trend in which electronic service providers will submit reports to the CyberTipline with little to no information that law enforcement can use to investigate child sexual exploitation crimes. Are you aware of Google submitting reports without critical investigative information that law enforcement needs?
4. What steps has Google taken since the passage of the REPORT Act to ensure that it is fulfilling its legal obligations under federal law?
5. Why has Google not partnered with NCMEC to ensure that Google search is not used to locate known child sexual abuse material, and this material is de-indexed on Google search?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator