

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
ERIC SCHMITT, MISSOURI
KATIE BOYD BRITT, ALABAMA
ASHLEY MOODY, FLORIDA

RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE K. HIRONO, HAWAII
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
ADAM B. SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 1, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mark Zuckerberg
Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer
Meta Inc.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

We write today regarding disturbing new reports about Meta’s continued efforts to undermine efforts to protect children from online harm on its platforms. In the wake of landmark verdicts handed down last month that found Meta liable for negligence in its platform’s design, it was reported that Meta began removing advertisements from attorneys seeking clients who allege that they were harmed by your platform while they were minors.¹ It is unfortunate that rather than addressing the dangerous design of its platforms, Meta is instead attempting to dodge additional accountability for its failure to protect children online.

Specifically, over a dozen advertisements that ran on Facebook and Instagram were deactivated, including one ad that read “Anxiety. Depression. Withdrawal. Self-harm. These aren’t just teenage phases—they’re symptoms linked to social media addiction in children. Platforms knew this and kept targeting kids anyway.”² Meta’s own internal research has confirmed *exactly* what the ad conveyed—that Meta’s social media platforms cause increased anxiety, depression, and self-harm. And these ads did not violate Meta’s Advertising Standards.³ Their removal is nothing more than an attempt to preserve a harmful business model at all costs—one that actively profits off the addiction of this nation’s youth—and reduce financial exposure for the harm Meta has caused to minors across the country.

There is no other justification for the removal of ads highlighting the potential harms caused by your platforms. In fact, Meta’s actions expressly conflict with its recent policy changes to “allow[] more speech” and to stop removing or demoting content, except in the most extreme circumstances.⁴ Any assertion that the removal of these ads was intended to somehow protect users is clearly pretextual because Meta frequently displays and profits from ads for scams and banned goods. In 2024, Meta estimated that 10% of its revenue would come from such ads. Meta internally

¹ Dan Primack, *Scoop: Meta Removes Ads for Social Media Addiction Litigation*, AXIOS (April 9, 2026), <https://www.axios.com/2026/04/09/meta-social-media-addiction-ads>.

² *Id.*

³ See “Transparency,” META <https://transparency.meta.com/policies/ad-standards/>.

⁴ “More Speech and Fewer Mistakes,” META, (Jan. 7, 2025), <https://about.fb.com/news/2025/01/meta-more-speech-fewer-mistakes/>.

estimated that its platforms show users 15 billion scam ads a day.⁵ That Meta makes *billions of dollars* from fraudulent ads makes clear that Meta is removing these ads only to protect its bottom line.

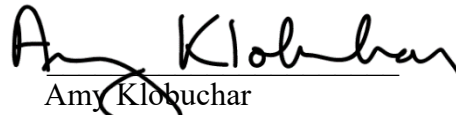
In the absence of Congress's passage of legislation to protect users, including the Senate's Kids Online Safety Act, children and parents have stepped in to fill this void and have taken significant steps to hold Big Tech accountable for the harms that their platforms have perpetrated on our young people. While we are glad that courts are beginning to hold Meta accountable for its conduct, the systemic change that parents demand and our children deserve must come from Congress and we will not stop until Congress takes decisive action to protect our children from harms that continue to occur across the internet, including on Meta's platform. The courts can punish past harms, but it is ultimately up to Congress to prevent future ones. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law, we look forward to examining these issues more closely in the near future.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Privacy, Technology, and the Law
Senate Judiciary Committee



Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Privacy, Technology, and the Law
Senate Judiciary Committee

⁵ Jeff Horwitz, *Meta Is Earning a Fortune on a Deluge of Fraudulent Ads, Documents Show*, REUTERS (Nov. 6, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/meta-is-earning-fortune-deluge-fraudulent-ads-documents-show-2025-11-06/>.