



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

October 16, 2020

Mr. Jack Dorsey
CEO, Twitter Inc.
1355 Market St. #900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

We write with significant concerns regarding the unparalleled actions Twitter recently took to suppress several stories from the New York Post, one of the oldest publications in the United States, that detail troubling allegations regarding Hunter Biden, the son of current Democrat nominee for President, Joe Biden.¹²³ This unprecedented attack, which shows a clear disregard for the spirit of the First Amendment and our country's long history of open dialogue among citizens, is the latest in a troubling pattern of actions taken by Twitter to target conservative viewpoints on its platform. Such actions include labeling President Trump's tweets as a threat to "public health" or "public safety" while turning a blind eye to Chinese Communist Party propaganda, unequivocal threats from the Supreme Leader of Iran, and use of your platform to put law enforcement in harm's way.⁴

While it has been evident for some time that Twitter and other social media platforms have acted with clear bias against conservative viewpoints and Republican politicians, these latest actions represent an unacceptable escalation and threaten the future of our democratic discourse. During your testimony to the Energy and Commerce Committee in 2018 you stated, "Twitter does not use political ideology to make any decisions."⁵ Clearly, this statement is patently false, or the official posture of your company has changed. During your time as CEO, it has become clear that Twitter has no qualms about using the power of its platform to selectively censor certain types of speech to advance a blatant political agenda. Given these latest actions, we ask that you promptly respond to the following questions, no later than October 27, 2020.

1. Did anyone at Twitter communicate with the Biden campaign or anyone connected to the Democratic Party prior to blocking access to the recent New York Post articles? If yes, please identify who and explain why Twitter took this action at their direction.

¹ <https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/email-reveals-how-hunter-biden-introduced-ukrainian-biz-man-to-dad/>

² <https://www.foxnews.com/media/twitter-double-standard-hunter-biden-claims-censor>

³ <https://nypost.com/2020/10/15/emails-reveal-how-hunter-biden-tried-to-cash-in-big-with-chinese-firm/>

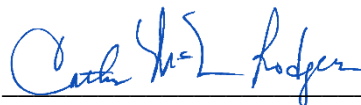
⁴ <https://nypost.com/2020/07/30/twitter-execs-refused-request-to-remove-ayatollah-khamenei-tweets/>

⁵ <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF00/20180905/108642/HHRG-115-IF00-Wstate-DorseyJ-20180905.pdf>

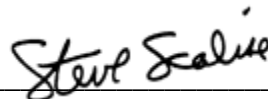
2. Following the outrage over Twitter's censorship of the NY Post article, Twitter pointed to a 2018 policy regarding "hacked" material and stated it "prohibits the use of our service to distribute content obtained without authorization." Regarding this "policy" please answer the following:
 - a. Who makes the final decision on applying this policy?
 - b. Has Twitter applied this policy to any other major news organization's articles? If yes, please provide each example.
 - c. Has Twitter ever applied this policy when a Republican or conservative was the target of unauthorized information? If yes, please list every article.
 - d. Please explain how the recent New York Times' article that detailed the President's tax returns, which were obtained "without authorization" did not violate this "policy."
 - e. How will Twitter apply this policy equally to other news organizations who obtain information that was not authorized by the subject moving forward?
3. If Twitter is concerned about the dissemination of "harmful content", why then has Twitter failed to censor or block articles from China Daily or Iran's tweets from Iran's Supreme Leader seeking to undermine the United States or cause harm to its citizens?
4. It has been reported that employees of Twitter with influence over moderating policies and content decisions have former or current connections to the Democratic Party or Democratic candidates. Please provide a list of how many employees this would apply to. Are there similar employees with connections to Republicans?

As members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we believe these are critically important questions and the American people deserve answers. In that spirit, we ask that you provide answers to these questions by the date specified above. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



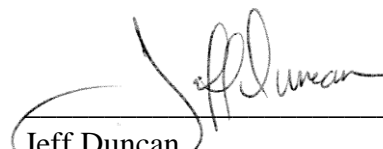
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



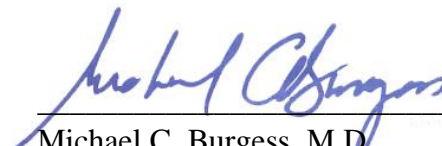
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



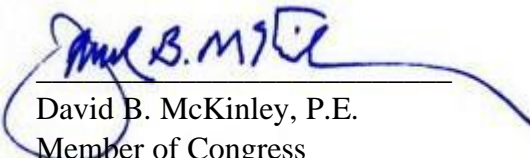
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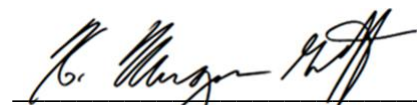
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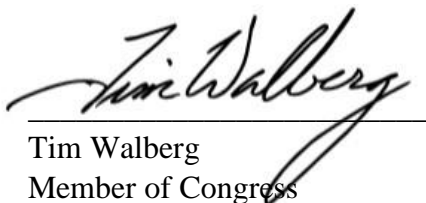
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