

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 6, 2025

Mr. Sundar Pichai  
Chief Executive Officer  
Alphabet Inc.  
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Mr. Pichai:

The Committee on the Judiciary continues to investigate how and to what extent the executive branch coerced or colluded with companies and other intermediaries to censor lawful speech.<sup>1</sup> During the 118th Congress, our oversight uncovered how the Biden-Harris Administration repeatedly pressured online platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, and Amazon, to censor Americans directly and by proxy.<sup>2</sup> Following this oversight, Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, admitted that it was wrong to bow to the Biden-Harris Administration's demands, publicly committed to restoring free speech on its platforms, and reformed its policies.<sup>3</sup> Alphabet, to our knowledge, has not similarly disavowed the Biden-Harris Administration's attempts to censor speech. To inform legislative reforms to protect Americans' civil liberties, the Committee must fully understand the extent and nature of the Biden-Harris Administration's censorship efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> See Ryan Tracy, *Facebook Bowed to White House Pressure, Removed Covid Posts*, WALL ST. J. (July 28, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., STAFF OF THE SELECT SUBCOMM. ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FED. GOV'T OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 118TH CONG., *THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT* (Comm. Print Dec. 20, 2024); STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY AND SELECT SUBCOMM. ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FED. GOV'T OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 118TH CONG., *THE CENSORSHIP-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: HOW TOP BIDEN WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS COERCED BIG TECH TO CENSOR AMERICANS, TRUE INFORMATION, AND CRITICS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION* (Comm. Print May 1, 2024); Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan), X (Nov. 30, 2023, 8:44 AM); [https://x.com/Jim\\_Jordan/status/1730221179632226337](https://x.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1730221179632226337); Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan), X (Dec. 1, 2023, 2:26 PM), [https://twitter.com/Jim\\_Jordan/status/1730669728002142706](https://twitter.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1730669728002142706); Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan), X (May 1, 2024, 4:09 PM), [https://x.com/Jim\\_Jordan/status/1785763383142129733](https://x.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1785763383142129733).

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Meta, to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Aug. 26, 2024) (noting that "senior officials from the Biden Administration, including the White House, repeatedly pressured" Meta "to censor certain COVID-19 content, including humor and satire"); Mark Zuckerberg, *More Speech and Fewer Mistakes*, META (Jan. 7, 2025) (noting that "it's been so difficult" to counter global censorship abroad when the Biden-Harris Administration "has pushed for censorship" and gone after Meta "and other American companies" at home, "embolden[ing] other governments to go even further").

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The Committee's oversight has revealed that YouTube, a subsidiary of Alphabet, was a direct participant in the federal government's censorship regime.<sup>4</sup> In particular, the Committee obtained documents showing that the federal government successfully pressured YouTube to censor certain lawful content, including content that did not violate YouTube's content moderation policies.<sup>5</sup> Throughout the previous Congress, the Committee expressed concern over YouTube's censorship of conservatives and political speech, including censorship of FBI whistleblowers who testified before the Committee.<sup>6</sup>

Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of matters concerning "civil liberties" to inform potential legislative reforms.<sup>7</sup> To develop effective legislation, such as the possible enactment of new statutory limits on the executive branch's ability to work with Big Tech to restrict the circulation of content and deplatform users, the Committee must first understand how and to what extent the executive branch coerced and colluded with companies and other intermediaries to censor speech.

To this end, attached please find a new subpoena requesting communications between Alphabet and the executive branch, internal Alphabet communications discussing communications from the executive branch, and Alphabet communications with third parties that may have been working with the executive branch, in addition to other key information.<sup>8</sup>

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

Enclosure

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<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY AND THE SELECT SUBCOMM. ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FED. GOV'T OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 118TH CONG., THE CENSORSHIP INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: HOW TOP BIDEN WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS COERCED BIG TECH TO CENSOR AMERICANS, TRUE INFORMATION, AND CRITICS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION (Comm. Print May 1, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., *id.*, at 6, 52-66; see also Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan), X (Nov. 30, 2023, 8:44 AM), [https://twitter.com/Jim\\_Jordan/status/1730221179632226337](https://twitter.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1730221179632226337); Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan), X (Dec. 1, 2023, 2:26 PM), [https://twitter.com/Jim\\_Jordan/status/1730669728002142706](https://twitter.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1730669728002142706); Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan), X (May 1, 2024, 4:09 PM), [https://x.com/Jim\\_Jordan/status/1785763383142129733](https://x.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1785763383142129733).

<sup>6</sup> See *YouTube Cancels CforC Patriotic Rosary and interview with FBI whistleblower, Marcus Allen*, CATHOLICS FOR CATHOLICS (Sep. 29, 2024); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Sundar Pichai, CEO, Alphabet (Oct. 7, 2024); see also Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Sundar Pichai, CEO, Alphabet (Oct. 30, 2024); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Sundar Pichai, CEO, Alphabet (Aug. 5, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Rules of the House of Representatives R. X (2025).

<sup>8</sup> See Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Sundar Pichai, CEO, Alphabet (Feb. 15, 2023) (attaching subpoena); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Daniel F. Donovan, Counsel for Alphabet (May 8, 2023).