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August 3, 2020

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg  
Chief Executive Officer, Facebook, Inc.  
1 Hacker Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

RE: POLITICAL/SCIENTIFIC CENSORSHIP

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

I write due to my concern that your platform again seems to be showing political bias.

You have repeatedly stated you support a free exchange of ideas in our nation. In a speech, you stated this importance noting: "we hold each other's right to express our views and be heard above our own desire to always get the outcomes we want."

However, it seems that you and your team at Facebook choose to censor or misuse your algorithms to downplay voices on one side of issues while failing to do so on the other. This now appears to be true when it comes to treatments for COVID-19.

Recently, Breitbart News and others live-streamed a group of licensed American doctors who were sharing their professional medical opinions regarding COVID-19. Apparently, Facebook made a choice to limit their voices. When Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner asked you about this censorship during the recent House Judiciary Committee hearing, you supported its removal stating: "we should take that down; that could cause imminent risk of harm."

These doctors provided personal experience and findings that countered misinformation provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), an entity which has experienced no censorship from your company during this global pandemic.

We all now know the WHO has been wrong about the virus repeatedly: not transferrable human to human, no need for travel bans, no need for masks, death rate of 3% or more... the list goes on. Yet Facebook is using the WHO as an expert source while limiting the voices of others who might disagree with their information.

Facebook has also disregarded evidence which indicates the WHO may be serving the interests of the Communist Party of China. There is well-documented evidence of China openly engaging in propaganda to distort the truth and deflect criticism and influencing the WHO's public statements.

How many times does the WHO have to be wrong before Facebook labels them as untrustworthy?

The failings of the WHO seem to be obvious to most Americans. Yet your company apparently shut down these licensed American doctors who stated they are effectively treating patients and instead referred users back to the WHO.

I am not asking you, or any American, to take anything stated by these licensed doctors, or others, at face value. I am not advocating for the statements of these doctors or any other statements they might have made on any other topic.

Instead, I am asking that you respect the agency and intelligence of the American people to make their own decisions, free from your Orwellian benevolence urging them toward sources publicly discredited and politically motivated.

Has your "expert" panel fact-checked the totally discredited research published by The Lancet regarding the medication hydroxychloroquine? Has your team now labeled that journal of medicine permanently as untrustworthy?

Additionally, has your internal team of experts reviewed the following information?

- Henry Ford Health System study backing the use of hydroxychloroquine: [www.henryford.com/news/2020/07/hydro-treatment-study](http://www.henryford.com/news/2020/07/hydro-treatment-study)
- Video on the same study: <https://youtu.be/sw1le17Lrz4>
- Yale Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health noting the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine: <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/25085/>
- The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons article on the same: <https://aapsonline.org/hydroxychloroquine-misinformation-can-be-deadly-let-patients-decide/>
- International Journal of Infectious diseases which stated, "Considered in the context of current studies on the use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19, our results suggest that hydroxychloroquine may have an important role to play in reducing COVID-19 mortality": [https://www.ijidonline.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1201-9712\(20\)30534-8](https://www.ijidonline.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1201-9712(20)30534-8)

My concern is that the answer is likely "no" because these sources do not come from a place of ideological bias or from within the government where bureaucracies may have a political agenda.

As a man who has achieved great success and wealth, you surely appreciate the value your doctor's opinion regardless of his or her partisan leanings. If you fell ill to this virus, would you refuse a hydroxychloroquine treatment if it were recommended by your doctor? Would you use the guidance of your expert panel at Facebook to determine your own medical treatments? Or would you allow your medical providers to use all the information at their disposal to recommend the best possible treatment for your particular case?

Now, let me be clear: I am not suggesting that hydroxychloroquine is the only potential treatment for this disease. What I am suggesting is that you should not attempt to limit the public's ability to make their own informed decisions.

There are a multitude of scientific and news reports of many potential therapies, procedures, and medications which have aided COVID-19 patients. These treatments have included the placement of patients on beds in different positions to improve airflow, the use of oxygen more readily instead of rushing to a ventilator, anti-inflammatory medications, the use of Remdesivir, and even an inhaled protein described by BBC News recently as a "breakthrough."

In our free country, the American people deserve to hear all voices and stories so they can evaluate information and make decisions for themselves. Unfortunately, while Facebook is known for connecting people and ideas, it seems to now be blinding users into believing this pandemic cannot be defeated without a single wonder drug and a vaccine. This defies what modern medicine and science was built upon: a system of trials and errors working toward the best possible outcome.

Doctors should be allowed to treat patients based upon symptoms and conditions with the best available information they can obtain. They should be free to prescribe drugs available to the public that they believe are best to address those symptoms and prevent secondary infections which cause fatalities.

As noted by Doctor Harvey Risch from the Yale School of Public Health, history will record that thousands of Americans died because of political correctness and scientific bias. Right now, your platform is on the wrong side of that history.

But you can end any Facebook action that allows blatant political bias to scare doctors and their patients away from a potential lifesaving treatment. You can ensure Facebook's decisions do not contribute to any deaths.

You can set aside hysteria, fear, and politics. You can give access to all the information available on this pandemic. You can allow users to make decisions for themselves.

For Louisiana

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry".

Jeff Landry  
Attorney General

cc:

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