

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
MONROE DIVISION**

STATE OF MISSOURI *ex rel.* ERIC S.
SCHMITT, Attorney General, and

STATE OF LOUISIANA *ex rel.* JEFFREY
M. LANDRY, Attorney General,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., in his official
capacity as President of the United States, *et*
al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:22-cv-01213

**PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF EXPEDITED PRELIMINARY-INJUNCTION RELATED
INTERROGATORIES TO SURGEON GENERAL VIVEK H. MURTHY**

Plaintiffs State of Missouri and State of Louisiana, by and through counsel, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures and the Court's Order of July 12, 2022, Doc. 34, request that Defendant Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy answer these Interrogatories in writing within thirty days. These Interrogatories are deemed to be continuing in nature and should be supplemented as required by Defendant's obligation under the Rules.

DEFINITIONS

A. "And," "or" and "and/or" and any other conjunctions or disjunctions used herein shall be read both conjunctively and disjunctively so as to require the production of all Documents (as hereinafter defined) responsive to all or any part of each particular request.

B. "Any," "each," "every," and "all" shall be read to be inclusive and to require the production of each and every Document (hereinafter defined) responsive to the particular request.

C. “Content Modulation” means any action by any Social-Media Platform to limit, restrict, or eliminate distribution of speech or content determined to be misinformation or sanction a speaker for speech or content determined to be misinformation. “Content Modulation” includes any form of restriction on access, censorship, suppression, or modulation of speakers, viewpoints, speech, and/or content by any Social-Media Platform, including any reference to or discussion of any speech or content considered to be Misinformation, or any speaker considered to be a purveyor of Misinformation. “Content Modulation” includes any form of blocking, deterring, deleting, suspending, suppressing, reducing the exposure of, and/or restricting or limiting access to, any speech, content, or speaker on social media, including but not limited to termination of account(s) or channel(s), permanent or temporary suspension of account(s) or channel(s), removal of content or posting(s), issuing strike(s) or warning(s) against account(s) or speaker(s), suppression of content, de-boosting, de-emphasizing, de-monetizing, deindexing, downlisting, shadow-banning, limiting number(s) of followers or subscribers, affixing advisory label(s) or warning label(s) to content, preventing the amplification of content, requiring additional click(s) to access content, and/or reducing or restricting the distribution of content in any way; and it includes, but is not limited to, the use or adjustment of algorithm(s) to achieve any of the foregoing.

D. “CDC” means the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any officer, official, employee, or agent of the CDC, as well as all of its divisions, agencies, boards, employees, contractors, and any subordinate agency or entity.

E. “CISA” means the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency within DHS, and any officer, official, employee, or agent of CISA, as well as all of its divisions, agencies, boards, employees, contractors, and any subordinate agency or entity.

F. “Communication” means any disclosure, transfer, or exchange of information, expression, or opinion, however made, including oral, graphic, written, or electronic transmittal of information, including any Document that contains or refers to a Communication.

G. “Content” means any material, including but not limited to messages, videos, photographs, and sound files, posted or sent by users on Social-Media Platforms.

H. “Defendant” means President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., White House Press Secretary Jennifer Psaki and Karine Jean-Pierre, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, NIAID Director and White House Science Advisor Anthony Fauci, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Director Jen Easterly, Director Nina Jankowicz, all in their official capacity, and the departments and agencies known as HHS, DHS, NIAID, CDC, and CISA.

I. “DHS” means the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as identified in 5 U.S.C. § 101, and all of its divisions, agencies, boards, employees, contractors, and any subordinate agency or entity, including CISA and the Disinformation Governance Board, as well as any officer, official, employee, or agent of DHS.

J. “Document” means without limitation, any written, recorded, graphic, or other material, however produced or reproduced, whether or not claimed to be privileged against discovery on any grounds, including, but not limited to, material in the forms of reports, statements, records (including any workflow software record), agreements, lists, memoranda, correspondence, sound and/or video recordings (or transcripts of recordings), appointment calendars, appointment invitations and responses, worksheets, emails, computer files, or any other documents of any kind whatsoever, irrespective of form. All attachments or enclosures to a document are deemed to be part of such document. “Document” and “Communication” include responsive documents retained on personal devices and/or in personal email accounts or other personal accounts.

K. “HHS” means the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as identified in 5 U.S.C. § 101, and all of its divisions, agencies, boards, employees, contractors, and any subordinate agency or entity, including CDC and NIAID, as well as any officer, official, employee, or agent of HHS.

L. “Identify” means when referring to: (a) a person, to state the name, his or her employer, job title, team or working group, email address, and present or last known address and telephone number; (b) a document, to state its date, its author(s) and addressees(s), and its nature and substance with sufficient particularity to enable it to be identified; (c) a communication, if other than a document, to state the mode of communication, (e.g., face-to-face, telephonic, email), the date and place thereof, to identify the person(s) who were present at or participated in, or who have knowledge or information relating to each event or occurrence, and to state the general subject matter thereof; (d) a meeting, to state the date, time, place, participants, and topics of discussion.

M. “Including” means including, but not limited to.

N. “Information” means data, documents, communications, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, sound recordings, images, records generated by individuals or machines, or the compilation of any of the foregoing stored in any medium, including electronically stored information.

O. “Misinformation” means any form of speech, expression, writing, or other communication or content considered to be potentially or actually incorrect, mistaken, false, misleading, lacking proper context, disfavored, having the tendency to deceive or mislead, or otherwise objectionable on similar grounds, including but not limited to any content or speech considered by any federal official or employee to be “misinformation,” “disinformation,”

“malinformation,” “MDM,” “misinfo,” “disinfo,” or “malinfo.” “Misinformation” includes, but is not limited to, any speech, expression, or content that discusses Hunter Biden’s laptop, the “lab-leak hypothesis” or theory that the SARS-CoV-2 virus originated from a laboratory in China, the efficacy of COVID-19 restrictions such as mask-wearing or lockdowns, the security of voting by mail, and any content considered to be “conspiracies about the validity and security of elections,” “disinformation related to the origins and effects of COVID-19 vaccines or the efficacy of masks,” “false or misleading narratives and conspiracy theories,” and/or “false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19.”

P. “Meeting” includes gatherings conducted in person, by telephone, or virtually.

Q. “NIAID” means the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and any officer, official, employee, or agent of NIAID, as well as all of its divisions, agencies, boards, employees, contractors, and any subordinate agency or entity.

R. “Disinformation Governance Board” means the entity with that name within DHS.

S. “Person” means any natural person, firm, partnership, association, joint venture, corporation, governmental entity or agency, or other organization or legal or business entity, without any limitation, or any party (including agents or employees) to this litigation.

T. “Relates to” or “relating to” means involving, discussing, identifying, referring to, concerning or in any way touching upon the matter sought.

U. “Search Terms” mean the following terms, deemed to be case-neutral and thus inclusive of both uppercase and lowercase letters: “misinformation, “misinfo,” “disinformation,” “disinfo,” “malinformation,” “malinfo,” “MDM,” “mask,” “masks,” “masking,” “COVID,” “SARS-CoV-2,” “lockdown,” “election,” “conspiracy,” “conspiracies,” “flag,” “flagging,” “Berenson,” “Barrington,” “gbdeclaration,” “Bhattacharya,” “Kulldorff,” “Hoft,” “Hines,”

“HealthFreedom,” “Kheriaty,” “Changizi,” “Kotzin,” “Senger,” “McCollum,” “A.J. Kay,” “Baumgartner,” “Jeff Allen,” “Gateway Pundit,” “gatewaypundit,” “NewsTalkSTL,” “Epoch Times,” “lab-leak,” “lab leak,” “Section 230,” “antitrust,” “anti-trust,” “DGB,” “Disinformation Governance Board,” “Analytic Exchange,” “Disinformation Dozen,” “Kennedy,” “Daszak,” “Wuhan,” “algorithm,” “Hunter Biden’s laptop,” “Hunter Biden laptop,” “DeSantis,” “Atlas,” “Trump,” “super-spreader,” “Babylon Bee,” “Federalist,” “Daily Wire,” and “New York Post.”

V. “Social-Media Platform” means any organization that provides a service for public users to disseminate speech, expression, information, or other content (typically content that includes messages, videos, photographs, and/or sound files) to other users or the public. “Social-Media Platform” includes both the organization and any of its officers, agents, employees, contractors, or any other person employed by or acting on behalf of the Social-Media Platform; as well subcontractors or entities used to conduct fact-checking or any other activities relating to Content Modulation. “Social-Media Platform” includes, but is not limited to, YouTube, Facebook (n/k/a Meta), Twitter, NextDoor, LinkedIn, and Instagram, Google, Reddit, Facebook Messenger, WeChat, TikTok, Weibo, Wikipedia, Snapchat, and Pinterest, among others.

W. “White House Communications Team” means any person with an email domain of @who.eop.gov, including but not limited to Ron Klain, Kate Bedingfield, Jennifer Psaki, Gina McCarthy, and Karine Jean-Pierre, among others.

X. “You” and “Your” refer to Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, as well as the Office of the Surgeon General and/or any officers, officials, employees, agents, staff, personnel, contractors, and other(s) acting on Your behalf.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. If your response to a request is that you do not have possession, custody, or control of a document or communication, please describe the efforts you have made to locate the document and identify who has control of the document and its location.

2. In the event that any information requested is withheld on the basis of a claim of privilege, state the ground(s) of the privilege claimed with sufficient particularity to evaluate the claim, and, if any documents are claimed to be privileged, set forth the author, addressee, indicated or blind copied, number of pages, attachments or appendices, all persons to whom distributed or shown or explained, present custodian, and a general description (e.g., “letter” or “memorandum”) of the document.

3. Any information not provided on the basis that the disclosure would be burdensome or oppressive should be identified by stating the approximate number of documents to be produced, the approximate number of person-hours to be incurred in the identification, and the estimated cost of responding to the request. If a reasonable alternative can be identified, Plaintiffs will meet and confer on that matter.

4. Each copy or duplicate of a document bearing initials, stamps, comments or notations of any character which are not part of the original text shall be considered a separate document. Additionally, all drafts (whether typed, handwritten or otherwise) made or prepared in connection with any document shall be considered a separate document.

5. Documents kept in an electronic or digital format should be produced with all metadata and delivered in their original format or in a manner agreed to by counsel.

6. Emails must identify all recipients and include attachments, previous threads, and forwards.

7. The singular of any noun includes the plural.

8. Unless otherwise directed, these requests ask for discoverable materials from January 1, 2020 to the present.

INTERROGATORIES

INTERROGATORY NO. 1. Identify every officer, official, employee, staff member, personnel, contractor, or agent of the Surgeon General or any other federal official or agency who has communicated or is communicating with any Social-Media Platform relating to Content Modulation and/or Misinformation.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 2. Identify all Communications with any Social-Media Platform relating to Content Modulation and/or Misinformation.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 3. Identify all Social Media Platforms, including their officers, agents, or employees, with which You have communicated or are communicating with relating to Content Modulation and/or Misinformation.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 4. Identify all meetings with any Social-Media Platform relating to Content Modulation and/or Misinformation.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 5. Identify all Communications with any Social-Media Platform that contain any of the Search Terms.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 6. Identify all “members of our senior staff” and/or “members of our COVID-19 team” who are “in regular touch with ... social media platforms,” as Jennifer Psaki stated at a White House press briefing on or around July 15, 2021, including all Communication(s) relating to such coordination.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 7. Identify all Communications with any Social-Media Platform relating to the “12 people who are producing 65 percent of anti-vaccine misinformation on social media platform,” referenced by Jennifer Psaki at the July 15, 2021 press briefing.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 8. Identify all “government experts” who are federal officers, officials, agents, employees, or contractors, who have “partnered with” Facebook or any other Social-Media Platform to address Misinformation and/or Content Modulation.

RESPONSE:

INTERROGATORY NO. 9. Identify all Communications between such “government expert(s)” identified in the preceding Interrogatory and any Social-Media Platform.

RESPONSE:

Dated: July 18, 2022

ERIC S. SCHMITT
Attorney General of Missouri

/s/ D. John Sauer

D. John Sauer, Mo. Bar No. 58721*

Solicitor General

Justin D. Smith, Mo. Bar No. 63253

First Assistant Attorney General

Todd Scott, Mo. Bar No. 56614

Senior Counsel

Michael E. Talent, Mo. Bar No. 73339*

Deputy Solicitor General

Missouri Attorney General's Office

Post Office Box 899

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Tel: (573) 751-8870

John.Sauer@ago.mo.gov

Counsel for State of Missouri

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY M. LANDRY
Attorney General of Louisiana

/s/ Elizabeth B. Murrill

Elizabeth B. Murrill (La #20685)

Solicitor General

Louisiana Department of Justice

1885 N. Third Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Tel: (225) 326-6766

murrille@ag.louisiana.gov

Counsel for State of Louisiana

* admitted *pro hac vice*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on July 18, 2022, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing to be served by electronic mail, pursuant to agreement of counsel, on counsel for all defendants.

/s/ D. John Sauer