

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

November 7, 2024

Mr. Imran Ahmed
Chief Executive Officer
Center for Countering Digital Hate
c/o Andrew D. Herman
Lawrence & Bundy
1101 17th Street, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ahmed:

The Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government are conducting oversight of how and to what extent the Executive Branch has coerced or colluded with companies and other intermediaries to censor lawful speech.¹ To develop effective legislation, such as the possible enactment of new statutory limits on the Executive Branch's ability to work with social media platforms and other companies to censor speech, the Committee and Select Subcommittee must first understand the nature of this collusion and coercion. To this end, on August 3, 2023, the Committee asked that the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) produce communications with the Executive Branch and third parties relating to the moderation of content online to understand, among other things, the extent to which content moderation occurred as a result of the government's influence.² After your counsel informed the Committee that CCDH would not comply voluntarily with our requests,³ on August 30, 2023, we issued a subpoena for documents relevant to our investigation.⁴ In light of recent reporting, we write to remind you of your continuing obligations under the subpoena to produce responsive documents to the Committee.

Recent reporting has discussed internal documents from CCDH apparently showing that (1) CCDH has made "[k]ill[ing] [Elon] Musk's Twitter" a "[p]riority" for the organization in 2024; (2) you emailed at least one Twitter executive to identify "groups/accounts/channels" for

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

² Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chair, H. Comm. on the Judic., to Mr. Imran Ahmed, CEO, CCDH (Aug. 3, 2023).

³ August 21, 2023 Telephone Call between Committee Staff and Andrew D. Herman.

⁴ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chair, H. Comm. on the Judic., to Mr. Imran Ahmed, CEO, CCDH (Aug. 30, 2023) (attaching subpoena).

ensorship in 2020; and (3) CCDH held a private event in 2024 that included Executive Branch personnel.⁵

The communications and documentation pertaining to CCDH's previous or ongoing communications with the Executive Branch and social media companies regarding content moderation appear to be within the scope of the Committee's August 30, 2023, subpoena.⁶ The subpoena is "continuing in nature."⁷ Therefore, all documents and communications relating to any efforts by CCDH to work with the Executive Branch, social media companies, or third parties to moderate content on the social media platform X or any other platform, including documents and communications created since CCDH's most recent production, are responsive to the Committee's subpoena.⁸

Accordingly, pursuant to the subpoena, we ask that you please prioritize producing the following categories of documents that are responsive to the subpoena:

- All records, notes, and other documents of interactions between or among CCDH and the Executive Branch referring or relating to "killing" or taking adverse action against Elon Musk's X social media platform (formerly Twitter).
- All communications and documents between or among CCDH, the Executive Branch, or third parties, including social media companies, relating to the identification of groups, accounts, channels, or posts for moderation, deletion, suppression, restriction, or reduced circulation.

Please produce these documents as soon as possible, but no later than November 21, 2024. The Committee is willing to accept the production of this responsive material on a rolling basis to ensure the Committee can consider this information as promptly as possible for potential legislative reforms.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

⁵ Paul D. Thacker & Matt Taibbi, *Election Exclusive: British Advisors to Kamala Harris Hope to "Kill Musk's Twitter"*, RACKET NEWS (Oct. 22, 2024).

⁶ See *supra* note 4, Subpoena, Schedule A, 1, 3.

⁷ See *id.*, Subpoena, *Instructions*, 14.

⁸ See *id.*, Schedule A.