

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH 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 18, 2025

Ms. Julie Inman Grant
Australian eSafety Commissioner

via email

Dear Ms. Inman Grant:

The Committee on the Judiciary of the U.S. House of Representatives is conducting oversight of how and to what extent foreign laws, regulations, and judicial orders compel, coerce, or influence companies to censor speech in the United States.¹ To develop effective legislation, such as new statutes to ensure that foreign laws cannot silence Americans in the United States or severely burden American companies, the Committee must first understand the nature of the harms imposed by these foreign laws. As the Australian eSafety Commissioner, you are the official primarily responsible for enforcing Australia's Online Safety Act (OSA), which imposes obligations on American companies and threatens speech of American citizens.² In addition, you have been working with U.S.-based organizations and universities to facilitate and encourage cooperation with foreign censorship regimes, including the OSA.³ As such, we respectfully request your testimony at a transcribed interview to inform the Committee's oversight.

Your expansive interpretation and enforcement of Australia's OSA—including your claim of extraterritorial jurisdiction to censor speech outside of Australia—directly threatens

¹ See, e.g., STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT: HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION'S DIGITAL SERVICES ACT COMPELS GLOBAL CENSORSHIP AND INFRINGES ON AMERICAN FREE SPEECH (Comm. Print July 25, 2025); Press Release, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, Chairman Jordan Subpoenas Big Tech for Information on Foreign Censorship of American Speech (Feb. 26, 2025).

² See *Our Commissioner*, ESAFETY COMMISSIONER, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/about-the-commissioner> (last accessed Oct. 30, 2025); *What we do*, ESAFETY COMMISSIONER, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do> (last accessed Oct. 30, 2025).

³ See e.g., Compliance and Enforcement in a Rapidly Evolving Landscape Agenda and Attendee List (Sep. 24, 2025) (on file with Comm.).

American speech.⁴ Global content takedown orders are concerning because they harm the free speech rights of those outside of Australia's jurisdiction and set the precedent that other governments may do the same. For example, in 2024, your Commission sought to compel X to remove content globally, arguing that its geo-blocking of the content was insufficient because Australians could use VPNs to access the content.⁵ Other censorship regimes, like the one in Brazil, have used similar justifications when ordering global takedowns of content and threatening fines for VPN use.⁶

The Committee has also learned that you have colluded with pro-censorship entities in the United States to facilitate Australia's, and other, global censorship regimes. According to documents obtained by the Committee, you recently gave the "keynote" at a non-public event at Stanford University on September 25, 2025.⁷ Other attendees and panelists included officials from some of the entities with the worst track records of extraterritorial censorship, including the European Union and Brazil.⁸ The stated purpose of this event was to "bring[] together policy makers, academics, and experienced Silicon Valley experts to discuss the state of compliance and enforcement of existing regulations related to online trust and safety."⁹ Put plainly, the roundtable sought to facilitate cooperation with global censorship by bringing together foreign officials who have directly targeted American speech and represent a serious threat to the First Amendment.

On the same day you appeared at Stanford's censorship roundtable, your Commission announced that an academic panel from Stanford's Social Media Lab would "support the eSafety Commissioner"—you—in examining how to implement social media laws and evaluate their

⁴ See e.g., Letter from Australia's eSafety Commission requiring X to take down content worldwide because it can be accessed via VPN (Apr. 18, 2024) (on file with Comm.); Tom Crowley, *'Silly' to demand global takedowns: Dutton weighs in on eSafety case*, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORP. (Apr. 25, 2024).

⁵ *Id.* In April 2024, you, as eSafety Commissioner, issued orders to X and other platforms to remove certain content. X ultimately complied with this order by making the posts unavailable to Australian users while allowing the posts to remain on the site. You then sought a legal order to compel X to takedown the content globally, which X challenged. Tom Crowley, *'Silly' to demand global takedowns: Dutton weighs in on eSafety case*, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORP. (Apr. 25, 2024).

⁶ *Fact Check: Brazilians Can Be Fined for Using VPN to Access X*, REUTERS (Sept. 6, 2024) (last updated Sept. 9, 2024).

⁷ Compliance and Enforcement in a Rapidly Evolving Landscape Agenda and Attendee List (Sep. 24, 2025) (on file with Comm.).

⁸ See, e.g., STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT: HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION'S DIGITAL SERVICES ACT COMPELS GLOBAL CENSORSHIP AND INFRINGES ON AMERICAN FREE SPEECH (Comm. Print July, 25, 2025); 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 ATTACK ON FREE SPEECH ABROAD AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S SILENCE: THE CASE OF BRAZIL (Comm. Print Apr. 17, 2024); 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 ATTACK ON FREE SPEECH ABROAD AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S SILENCE: THE CASE OF BRAZIL, PART II (Comm. Print May 7, 2024); Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim_Jordan), X (July 28, 2025, 10:58 AM), https://x.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1949846809238446237; Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim_Jordan), X (July 29, 2025, 9:30 PM), https://x.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1950368307372020086.

⁹ Compliance and Enforcement in a Rapidly Evolving Landscape Agenda and Attendee List (Sep. 24, 2025) (on file with Comm.).

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effectiveness.¹⁰ These close ties with Stanford are troubling given the university's past efforts to facilitate U.S. government censorship of lawful American speech.¹¹ As the Committee found in the 118th Congress, the Stanford Internet Observatory played a key role in laundering government censorship requests to social media platforms, enabling officials in the U.S. government to covertly silence American voices to influence the 2020 U.S. presidential election.¹²

As a primary enforcer of Australia's OSA and noted zealot for global takedowns, you are uniquely positioned to provide information about the law's free speech implications—both in the U.S. and abroad. This information will inform the Committee's legislative reforms aimed, in part, at ensuring that foreign censors cannot silence protected American speech. Accordingly, we respectfully request your cooperation and ask that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with the Committee. Please contact Committee staff to schedule your transcribed interview as soon as possible but no later than 10:00 a.m. ET on December 2, 2025.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a "broad and indispensable" power to obtain information and conduct oversight, which "encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys of defects in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling the Congress to remedy them."¹³ Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of matters concerning "[c]ivil liberties" to inform potential legislative reforms.¹⁴

If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at +1 (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

¹⁰ Press Release, Australian eSafety Commissioner, eSafety appoints Stanford University-led academic advisory group to assess the impacts of the Social Media Minimum Age obligation (Sep. 25, 2025), <https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/media-releases/esafety-appoints-stanford-university-led-academic-advisory-group-to-assess-the-impacts-of-the-social-media-minimum-age-obligation>.

¹¹ See STAFF OF THE H. JUDICIARY COMM. & THE SELECT SUBCOMM. ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FED. GOV'T, THE WEAPONIZATION OF 'DISINFORMATION' PSEUDO-EXPERTS AND BUREAUCRATS: HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERED WITH UNIVERSITIES TO CENSOR AMERICANS' FREE SPEECH, (Nov. 6, 2023).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).

¹⁴ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, cl. 1(l)(5) (2025).