



CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

TECH2020

December 21, 2018

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO and Founder
Facebook
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we were deeply disturbed to read the report presented to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence which detailed the carefully orchestrated effort by Russian actors to use your platform to suppress turnout among black voters. This is particularly disconcerting in light of various media reports detailing actions by Facebook executives to ignore or suppress warnings about foreign actors weaponizing your platform.

Similarly, we are concerned about reports detailing Facebook's missteps in protecting consumer privacy, and even taking steps to target actors who have tried to publicly hold Facebook accountable for its actions. **Given the severe implications of these report, we write to request an in-person meeting with you to discuss concrete steps you will take to prevent future disinformation campaigns. We also look forward to discussing the issues below with you.**

Audit for 2016 Elections

While we welcome Facebook's decision to conduct a legal audit of its impact on underrepresented communities and communities of color, we are concerned about limiting the scope to only examining the effects of changes Facebook has implemented since 2016. In light of the Senate Intelligence report about disinformation campaigns leading up to the 2016 elections, we request that you also expeditiously conduct an audit on how communities of color were adversely impacted at that time. If an assessment has already been conducted, we request that you share a copy without revisions or redactions, and with supporting documents where appropriate.

Publicly Release the Civil Rights Audit as Soon as Possible

Finally, we are concerned that the process for this current audit has been stalled. That is why we request that Facebook publicly release all findings and recommendations of the civil rights audit by the end of January 2019, without revisions or redactions, and including supporting documents where appropriate. We believe this would be a meaningful step towards transparency.

Publicly Release List of Definers Public Affairs' Targets

Similarly, in the spirit of transparency, we request that Facebook also publicly identify all individuals and organizations targeted by the opposition firm Definers Public Affairs. We were deeply concerned to see media reports that Facebook worked with Definers to target certain individuals and civil rights organizations who have publicly criticized it. So that we and the public may understand the full extent of Definers' probes, we ask that the full list of targets, and associated documents be publicly released.

Expand the Board of Directors for Greater Diversity

As you know, management studies have shown that diverse workforces not only yield higher financial returns, they yield better decision-making. That is why we write to request that you expand your Board for Directors to include at least three more independent directors who represent the diversity of Facebook's platform users.

Tech is ubiquitous so we must ensure that it is used for good, and not weaponized. We hope you share this view with us. As we look to the 116th Congress, we look forward to meeting with you to discuss these pressing and urgent issues. We are eager to hear about concrete plans you have to address these issues and ensure they do not occur in the future.

Sincerely,



Cedric Richmond
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Co-Chair, TECH2020 Diversity Task Force



G. K. Butterfield
Co-Chair, TECH2020 Diversity Task Force

Cc: Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook