September 26, 2023

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Meta
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear. Mr. Zuckerberg,

We write to express deep concern about the potential impact of Meta's decision to downsize its election teams ahead of the 2024 U.S. presidential election year. The proliferation of misinformation and disinformation on your social media platforms has consistently been a concern for Congress, particularly during election years as users of all backgrounds are more vulnerable to malicious campaigns seeking to undermine confidence in the integrity of our elections.

This is particularly troubling given that in previous years Meta has tended to ramp up, not curtail, its election integrity efforts in the months leading up to elections. Ahead of the 2022 U.S. midterm elections, Meta's approach to fight election falsehoods was "consistent with the policies and safeguards [Meta] had in place during the 2020 U.S. presidential election." [1] However, now, your actions indicate the contrary as Meta continues to eliminate tens of thousands of jobs, including layoffs within its trust and safety division which is dedicated to overseeing content moderation and combating foreign influence campaigns.[2]

The accelerated innovations in and deployment of artificial intelligence opens the door for a deluge of misinformation and disinformation where a malicious agent can flood your platforms with hate speech, fake images, altered videos and false information about our elections. With over 50 countries preparing for elections in 2024, the risk of generative artificial intelligence causing confusion to create a global volatile political environment for voters and candidates is much greater than ever.

Given the serious risks of misinformation and disinformation running rampant on Meta's platforms ahead of the 2024 elections, we respectfully ask that you answer the following questions separately for each of your platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Threads by October 26, 2023:

1. What input and/or recommendations informed your company's decision to reduce the number of employees in the trust and safety division? Does the company intend to continue laying off additional employees of this division?

2. What steps has your company taken to ensure that current employees in the trust and safety division have the additional tools and resources to sustain, or improve, their efforts to prevent the amplification of online misinformation and disinformation?

3. How many employees at your company are currently dedicated to addressing election-relation dis/misinformation on its platform, and what are their roles? How does this compare to the number of employees who were dedicated to these efforts for the 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 election cycles?
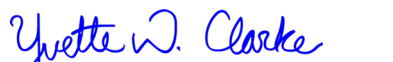
4. What role has your new artificial intelligence algorithms played in identifying and removing the distribution of election-related dis/misinformation? Please describe the effectiveness of these policies and procedures and the metrics used to measure their effectiveness.

5. Do current employees at your company dedicated to addressing election-related dis/misinformation on its platform have any oversight over your new artificial intelligence algorithms?

6. Does your company have policies and procedures in place to periodically evaluate your artificial intelligence algorithms' ability to accurately detect election-related dis/misinformation?

Elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and your company plays a critical role in ensuring that online dis/misinformation does not discredit the integrity of our elections. We appreciate your attention to these important issues and look forward to your prompt response.
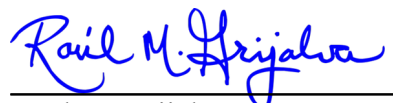
Sincerely,

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress
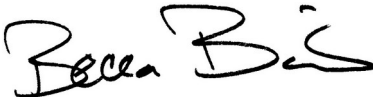
Al Green
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
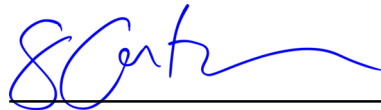Member of Congress

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

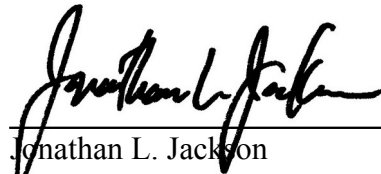Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress