



May 15, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chairman
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Cruz, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs Grassley, Jordan, Guthrie, and Cruz; Ranking Members Durbin, Raskin, Pallone, and Cantwell; and Members of the Committees:

I write to you as a mother of four and Executive Director of American Parents Coalition (APC) with deep concern about Meta's growing pattern of exposing children to dangerous unregulated technologies. Based on the recent report from the *Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* about Meta AI engaging in sexually explicit conversations with children, I urge your committees to open a formal investigation into Meta and similar companies that have repeatedly prioritized their companies' growth, engagement, and metrics over the safety and well-being of children.

In April, the *WSJ* reported that Meta's AI "digital companions" were engaging children in graphic, sexually explicit conversations. Even though Meta claims kids can no longer access these inappropriate features, the *WSJ* reported the "barriers could regularly be overcome simply by asking an AI persona to go back to the prior scene." These AI chatbots are still available on app stores with ratings suggesting they are appropriate for children as young as 12.

Meta's record of exposing children to harmful content goes far beyond AI. In 2024, the *WSJ* found that Meta's Instagram platform recommended sexually explicit videos to accounts registered to 13-year-olds. After just minutes of use, the algorithm served minors content featuring "adult sex-content creators," and "videos in which women pantomimed sex acts, graphically described their anatomy or caressed themselves to music with provocative lyrics." In 2023, investigations found that Instagram actively connected and promoted a vast pedophile network through its recommendation engine. The platform is not merely hosting illicit activity, it is enabling and amplifying it.

Even Meta's own internal reviews in 2024 confirmed that its paid subscription services were being used to promote sexualized child modeling accounts to suspected predators.

Meta would have us believe that these are all just isolated oversights, a consequence of technology moving too fast. But again and again, its platforms have prioritized engagement metrics over child safety despite ample evidence of harm. Former employees have testified to the company's "see no evil, hear no evil" culture. Meta has knowingly allowed underage users to operate accounts, encouraged addiction through algorithmic design, and ignored red flags related to self-harm, eating disorders, and exploitation.

We are learning more every day about the harm AI and digital companions can cause to children. Common Sense Media has now warned that social AI companions pose "unacceptable risks" to children and teens under 18 due to the risks of inappropriate content, harmful behaviors, and parasocial attachments that blur their grasp on reality. Additionally, as with any emerging technology, there is so much that we have yet to learn about its risks.

Even when faced with overwhelming evidence that its AI was engaging minors in sexually explicit conversations, Meta denied wrongdoing and only later applied limited restrictions. If protecting kids were truly a priority, or even a consideration, these safeguards would have been there from the start.

To be clear, no number of parental controls or safeguards can or should absolve parents from setting clear boundaries with their children about their digital media use and habits. It is also true, however, that parents cannot supervise their children every second, online or off. It is nearly impossible to protect children from platforms deliberately designed without regard for their well-being and with technologies evolving faster than parents can possibly keep up. How can families defend their children from apps or tools they don't even know exist?

We must hold digital companies that engage with children accountable for some sort of baseline safety requirements, just as we require that car seats or bike helmets meet general safety guidelines.

APC is grateful for your committee's previous efforts to hold social media companies accountable, however, the pattern of behavior at Meta demands deeper scrutiny. Meta's AI and social media platforms have become vectors for child endangerment, and in too many cases, child exploitation.

I respectfully urge your committees to open a full investigation into Meta's conduct, its product safety protocols, and its repeated failure to implement and enforce child protection standards. Our children should never be sacrificed for the sake of profit, engagement, or product expansion.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alleigh Marré". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alleigh" and last name "Marré" clearly distinguishable.

Alleigh Marré
Executive Director
American Parents Coalition