

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

September 18, 2025

Evan Spiegel
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
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Mr. Spiegel:

There is increasing evidence that AI chatbots pose a grave harm to children. And your company's products are responsible. More than seventy percent of American children are now using AI chatbots, which exposes minors to a host of concerning material and mental health risks. In many cases, it appears that proper safeguards or parental controls are either nonexistent or unworkable. Last month, the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism initiated an investigation into these harms concerning Meta products. Recent testimony has expanded the investigation's scope, and the Subcommittee expects your full cooperation.

Earlier this week, three parents testified before the Subcommittee on harms experienced by their children who used chatbot products. Their testimony offered a visceral picture into a disturbing new reality: AI chatbots that mock a child's faith, urge them to cut their own bodies, expose them to sex abuse material, and even groom them to suicide. This is no accident. These harms are the predictable result of the same playbook that many tech corporations used with respect to social media: maximize engagement at the expense of child safety.

Expert testimony at the hearing confirmed what these parents already knew: this is widespread and systemic problem. Chatbots are engineered to keep children engaged at all costs, simulating friendship, sycophantically validating children's darkest thoughts, isolating them from friends and families, all to draw kids deeper into addiction. The result is predictable: systems that isolate children, encourage self-harm, and even encourage suicides. This appears to be as business model that sacrifices children for engagement.

The hearing was a critical stage in the Subcommittee's investigation. It confirmed the urgency of the threat and clarified what specific evidence is necessary for Congress to take appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, since your company has deployed chatbot products broadly available to children, I am attaching an annex containing comprehensive data requests.

Please produce all documents and information specified in the annex no later than **October 17, 2025**. If you believe any materials contain proprietary or confidential information, you may confer with Subcommittee staff on an appropriate confidentiality agreement. But let me be clear: children are dead. Families are broken. Congress will not look the other way.

Sincerely



Josh Hawley
United States Senator
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism

Annex

I. Internal Research and Knowledge of Harm

1. Identify all safety testing, risk assessments, or internal evaluations your company has conducted concerning the effects of your AI chatbot products on children and teens, including the dates, scope, and results of such evaluations.
2. Describe all internal efforts, proposals, or initiatives to study how your AI chatbot products affect children, including whether any such efforts were suppressed, delayed, or discontinued, and identify all persons and departments involved in those decisions.
3. Identify all external researchers, advocacy organizations, or regulators who have provided your company with findings or warnings concerning harms to children from your AI chatbot products, and describe your company's response to each.

II. Product Design and Engagement Practices

4. Identify all design features of your AI chatbot products that are intended to increase engagement, retention, or time spent on the platform.
5. Describe how the features identified in II.1 were weighed against safety risks to children.
6. Describe all ways in which your AI chatbot products simulate relationships, provide emotional validation, or otherwise foster dependency in users.
7. Describe in detail any and all safeguards that exist, or have existed, at your company to prevent harm to children.

III. Incidents and Harms Involving Children

8. Identify all instances in which your AI chatbot products recommended, encouraged, or failed to block content related to self-harm, suicide, eating disorders, sexual grooming, or other sexual interactions with children or teen users.
9. Identify the total number of users for each of your individual plan types.
10. Identify the total number of users who are under 18 for each of your individual plan types.
11. Identify the average number of hours users have spent using your platform per day, week, month, and year over the last 12 months, and differentiate between local hours of 7 a.m.–10 p.m. versus 10 p.m.–7 a.m.
12. Identify the average number of hours users under 18 have spent using your platform per day, week, month, and year over the last 12 months, and differentiate between local hours of 7 a.m.–10 p.m. versus 10 p.m.–7 a.m.

13. Identify the number of times you have tracked a user in the State that registered for an account using a date of birth under 13 and changed their date of birth to over 13 within an hour.

IV. Documents

14. All documents related to each of the questions raised in this annex.