

Date	Official	Target	Demand	Quote	Notes	Reference
May 10, 2016	Sen. John Thune (R-SD)	Facebook	Specifically explain how Facebook handles news articles in its “trending” list so conservatives can better tell if they’re being discriminated against.	<p>“What steps is Facebook taking to investigate claims of politically motivated manipulation of news stories in the Trending topics section? If such claims are substantiated, what steps will Facebook take to hold the responsible individuals accountable?”</p> <p>“How many stories have curators excluded that represented conservative viewpoints or topics of interest to conservatives? How many stories did curators inject that were not, in fact, trending?”</p> <p>“Please provide a list of all news stories removed from or injected into the Trending Topics section since January 2014.”</p>	<p>The letter asks if Facebook presents its Trending Topics section as the result of a neutral objective algorithm but is, in fact, subjective and filtered to support or suppress particular political viewpoints; it is misleading the public.</p> <p>It includes five questions about Facebook’s human moderators interfering with the algorithm’s results and about the algorithm’s selection results for “Trending Topics.”</p>	John Thune, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, letter to Mark Zuckerberg , May 10, 2016.
November 1, 2017	Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)	Facebook Google Twitter	Support legislation to regulate digital advertising.	“You all would agree, then, I guess, with the legislation that’s been introduced by different members and bipartisan Members of this Committee and other committees, that you all should be regulated and overseen the same as we do other news medias? Mr. Stretch, you have any idea, a comment? Are you all going to fight back on that, lobby against it, or are you going to basically support the legislation that’s going to be needed to make sure that the American people are getting the facts and not fake news? . . . You all will be speaking in support of these pieces of legislation?”		Open Hearing: Social Media Influence in the 2016 U.S. Election, Before the Select Committee on Intelligence , 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (November 1, 2017).
November 1, 2017	Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)	Google	Reduce algorithm exposure for videos for fake news regarding the election. In this case, it was Russian misinformation videos about Hillary Clinton.	“And you will, if you find it, reduce the number of hits so it’s no longer trending?”		Open Hearing: Social Media Influence in the 2016 U.S. Election, Before the Select Committee on Intelligence , 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (November 1, 2017).
November 1, 2017	Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Facebook Google (to their general counsels present at the hearing) Twitter	Do something about the “misuse” of their platforms, lest the government itself interfere.	“You have a huge problem on your hands, and the United States is going to be the first of the countries to bring it your attention, and others are going to follow, I’m sure, because you bear this responsibility. You’ve created these platforms and now they are being misused, and you have to be the ones to do something about it, or we will. ”		

April 10, 2018	Sen. Thune (R-SD)	Facebook	Better protect users' privacy/be clearer and more transparent about what data you sell and to whom and for what purpose it will be used.	<p>"In the past, many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have been willing to defer to tech companies' efforts to regulate themselves," John Thune, chairman of the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee, said in prepared opening remarks. "But this may be changing."</p> <p>"In many ways, you and the company you've created represent the American Dream. You have an obligation to ensure that dream doesn't become a privacy nightmare for the scores of people who use Facebook."</p>		Open Hearing: Social Media Influence in the 2016 U.S. Election, Before the Select Committee on Intelligence , 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (November 1, 2017).
April 10, 2018	Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-NY)	Facebook	Hypothetical—if Aleksandr Kogan, the developer of the app that allowed Cambridge Analytica to collect data from millions of Facebook users tried to make an account under a new name, would Facebook take it down?	<p>"So if he were to open up another account under a name and you were able to find out that would be taken—would that be closed down?"</p> <p>Zuckerberg: "Senator, I believe we—we are preventing him from building any more apps."</p>		"Transcript of Mark Zuckerberg's Senate Hearing," <i>Washington Post</i> , April 10, 2018.
April 10, 2018	Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)	Facebook	Remove hate speech more expediently. Leahy made this request after asking why posts calling for the death of a Muslim journalist were not removed more quickly.	<p>"How can you dedicate, and will you dedicate, resources to make sure such hate speech is taken down within 24 hours?"</p>		"Transcript of Mark Zuckerberg's Senate Hearing," <i>Washington Post</i> , April 10, 2018.
July 17, 2018	Member of Congress Jaime Raskin (D-MD)	Facebook	Remove Infowars posts claiming that Parkland victims were crisis actors/ban Infowars page altogether.	<p>Deutch: "I have a question, Ms. Bickert, for you. You recently decided not to ban Infowars. Can you explain that decision? And do you use a strikes model like YouTube?"</p> <p>Bickert: "Congressman, we do use a strikes model. What that means is, if a page or a profile or a group is posting content and some of that violates our policies, we always remove the violating post at a certain point, and it depends—it depends on the nature of the content that is violating our policies. At a certain point, we would also remove the page or the profile or the group at issue."</p> <p>Raskin: "You remove it. And then—and they're allowed to continue to keep putting it up in the future or are they banned from Facebook?"</p>		Facebook, Google and Twitter: Examining the Content Filtering Practices of Social Media Giants, Hearing Before the Committee on the Judiciary , 115th Cong., 2nd Sess. (July 17, 2018).

				<p>Bickert: “We would remove that content if they put it up again. And at a certain point, their account or their page would be removed.</p> <p>Raskin: “So just explain, what’s happened with Infowars? Because they’ve made a cottage industry out of this. What they do is they deny that these events have happened. Why are they still on Facebook? . . . If certain content you’re saying has been taken down when they are taunting the students from Parkland, but at what point does the whole page get taken down? And I agree, certainly, that the—that these posts should be taken down that the chairman’s talking about.”</p>		
July 17, 2018	Rep. Lamar Smith (TX)	Facebook	Remove bias from Facebook.	“Mr. Chairman, I’d like to ask all of our panelists today one question that is pretty direct and I think can be answered yes or no. And the question is this: Would you pledge publicly today to make every effort to neutralize bias within your online platforms?”		Facebook, Google and Twitter: Examining the Content Filtering Practices of Social Media Giants, Hearing Before the Committee on the Judiciary , 115th Cong., 2nd Sess. (July 2017, 2018).
December 5, 2018	Member of Congress Darrel Issa (R-OH)	Google	Look further to see if Google has political bias.	“Will you commit to look in the case of potential political bias in all aspects of your very large company, to look at the outcome, measure the outcome, and see if in fact there is evidence of bias using that, and then work backwards to see if some of that can be evened to what would appropriately be the outcome?”		House Committee on the Judiciary, “ Transparency and Accountability: Examining Google and Its Data Collection, Use and Filtering Practices ,” YouTube video, 1:35:30.
December 5, 2018	Member of Congress Ted Deutch (D-FL)	Google	Agree that Google is responsible for the content on its platforms (the opposite of what Section 230 says).	“Will you in front of our committee this morning join your peers and affirm that Google is accountable for the content on your platforms?”		House Committee on the Judiciary, “ Transparency and Accountability: Examining Google and Its Data Collection, Use and Filtering Practices ,” YouTube video, 2:06.
December 5, 2018	Member of Congress Karen Bass (D-CA)	Google	Change algorithms to get rid of trolling on Google.	“Will you expand your staff or modify their algorithms in an effort to identify and eradicate the online trolls?” (not sure if this counts as jawboning, but I do know that the 1A allows for trolling...)		House Committee on the Judiciary, “ Transparency and Accountability: Examining Google and its Data Collection, Use and Filtering Practices ,” YouTube video, December 5, 2018, 2:17:00.
March 19, 2019	Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)	Twitter YouTube	Take down links to 3D-printable gun blueprints.	“I do not believe one of the country’s most prominent tech companies should be facilitating access to these deadly weapons.”	Per an article in <i>The Trace</i> , “Menendez wrote both companies calling for the removal of such type of content. Two hours after this	Menendez’s letter to Jack Dorsey .

				<p>"I ask that you take immediate steps to remove such links, as well as the ability to directly message these links from your platform."</p>	<p>article was published, both platforms removed the cited accounts. However, it's unclear what ongoing actions will be taken to monitor and prevent future publication."</p>	<p>Accompanying press release.</p> <p>(Note to reader: clicking on these links will automatically download files.)</p> <p>Sean Campbell, "Plans for 3D-Printed Guns Are Still Accessible on Twitter and YouTube," <i>The Trace</i>, May 17, 2019.</p>
April 10, 2019	Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)	<p>Facebook Google Twitter</p>	<p>Provide transparent accounting of removal policies and the ratio of conservative posts that were removed to the liberal posts that were removed.</p>	<p>Ted Cruz threatens social media companies further with requests to appear in Congress, and gestures toward changes to Section 230 and antitrust remedies in his opening remarks during the April 10, 2019, Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, <i>Stifling Free Speech: Technological Censorship and the Public Discourse</i>.</p> <p>His paraphrased remarks: What to do about anti-conservative bias is a thorny legal question.</p> <p>There are three potential legal remedies: 230 reform; antitrust; principles of fraud (users sign up under the false pretense that they will be able to speak without being targeted unfairly and silenced).</p> <p>We want tech's content moderation to become transparent rather than a black box so we can more effectively discern what is happening in respect to bias.</p> <p>"Google has failed to provide a witness of comparable seniority for today's hearing so we will be holding a separate hearing at some point to hear from Google . . . about their policies and whether they consider themselves a neutral public forum."</p> <p>"Are you aware of a single Democratic politician whose posts have been pulled down by Facebook? Can you provide an accounting of whose posts have been removed and why?"</p>		<p>Stifling Free Speech: Technological Censorship and the Public Discourse, Hearing Before the Subcommittee on the Constitution (April 10, 2019).</p>
April 10, 2019	Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)		<p>Don't bow to GOP must-carry demands.</p>	<p>Hirono, accusing Ted Cruz/the Committee of "metajawboning" in the April 10, 2019, Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, <i>Stifling Free Speech: Technological Censorship and the Public Discourse</i>.</p>		<p>Stifling Free Speech: Technological Censorship and the Public Discourse, Hearing Before the Subcommittee on</p>

				Platforms attempt to overcompensate for their perceived liberal bias by treating Democrats more harshly than Republicans. Cruz/Majority party's objective here is to "work the refs" during election season. "We simply cannot allow the Republican party to harass tech companies into weakening content moderation policies that already fail to remove hateful, dangerous, and misleading content."		the Constitution (April 10, 2019).
October 1, 2019	Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA)	Twitter	Ban Donald Trump from Twitter for violating Twitter's terms on inciting violence and harassing others (when Trump tweeted a threat to out the whistleblower who set forth allegations that he had abused power).	<p>"These are blatant threats. We need a civil society, not a civil war. These tweets represent a clear intent to baselessly discredit the whistleblower and officials in our government who are following the proper channels to report allegations of presidential impropriety, all while making blatant threats that put people at risk and our democracy in danger."</p> <p>"In the past, Twitter has banned or suspended people who have violated its user agreement . . . No user, regardless of their job, wealth, or stature should be exempt from abiding by Twitter's user agreement, not even the president of the United States."</p>	<p>Twitter said tweets do not violate policies against abusive behavior, targeted harassment, or violence on the service so it would not take the tweet down.</p> <p>Before Harris sent the letter, Twitter introduced a policy that allows world leaders to break its rules without being penalized or getting suspended as long as the company deems the tweets to be in the "public interest." However, the company said it would take action on tweets from world leaders that promote terrorism or include direct threats of violence made against an individual.</p>	Kamala Harris, response in letter to Jack Dorsey , October 1, 2019.
February 8, 2020	<p>Drew Hammill, Rep. Pelosi's chief of staff</p> <p>Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)</p> <p>Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)</p> <p>Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)</p>	Facebook Twitter	Remove edited video of Nancy Pelosi where she appears to be ripping up Trump's State of the Union speech (as Trump reunites a military family, announces a scholarship award for a young girl, and awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Rush Limbaugh).	<p>Drew Hammill: "The American people know that the president has no qualms about lying to them—but it is a shame to see Twitter and Facebook, sources of news for millions, do the same."</p> <p>Drew Hammill: "Every day that these platforms refuse to take it [Trump's tweet] down is another reminder that they care more about their shareholders' interests than the public's interests."</p> <p>Drew Hammill (to Facebook spokesman Andy Stone): "What planet are you living on? This is deceptively altered. Take it down."</p> <p>Cicilline tweeted: "Hey @Twitter, this video is clearly edited in a way that's intended to mislead viewers. You should take it down."</p> <p>Khanna tweeted: "Twitter must take this misleading video about Speaker Pelosi down now."</p>	<p>Twitter told Pelosi's office that it was implementing a new policy of cracking down on manipulated media, but her video happened before that policy was set to take effect. (It is unclear whether this meant the scandal of this video had no role in advancing/expanding/implementing this policy.)</p> <p>Three days after Trump tweeted this, Twitter announced new rules on manipulated media, saying "You may not deceptively share synthetic or manipulated media that are likely</p>	<p>Adam Shaw, "Dems Demand Twitter, Facebook Take Down Edited Video of Pelosi Ripping Up State of the Union Speech Posted by Trump," Fox News, February 8, 2020.</p> <p>Rep. David Cicilline, (@davidcicilline), "Hey @Twitter, this video is clearly edited in a way that's intended to mislead viewers. You should take it down,"_Twitter, February 7, 2020, 12:26 p.m.,</p>

				<p>Beyer tweeted: "This video is doctored. It has been up, and pinned to the president's page, for nearly a day." Beyer called on Twitter to take down the clip.</p>	<p>to cause harm. In addition, we may label tweets containing synthetic and manipulated media to help people understand the media's authenticity and to provide additional context."</p> <p>Twitter also vowed to examine videos to see "whether the content has been substantially edited in a manner that fundamentally alters its composition, sequence, timing or framing" as well as looking at "any visual or auditory information (such as new video frames, overdubbed audio or modified subtitles) that has been added or removed."</p> <p>Facebook did not reply to the representatives.</p>	<p>https://twitter.com/davidcicilline/status/1225833265371676672.</p>
May 27, 2020	President Donald Trump	Social media platforms	Threatened to regulate or close down platforms that do not change their moderation practices.	<p>"Republicans feel that social Media Platforms totally silence conservatives' voices."</p> <p>"We will strongly regulate, or close them down, before we can ever allow this to happen. We saw what they attempted to do, and failed, in 2016. We can't let a more sophisticated version of that . . . happen again."</p>	Twitter declined to comment on the president's threats.	<p>Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "Republicans feel that Social Media Platforms totally silence conservatives voices. We will strongly regulate, or close them down, before we can ever allow this to happen. We saw what they attempted to do, and failed, in 2016. We can't let a more sophisticated version of that....," Twitter, May 27, 2020, https://web.archive.org/web/20200601051214/https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1265601611310739456.</p>
June 1, 2020	Federal Communications	Facebook	Take Pamela Karlan off Facebook oversight board.	"At least from a political perspective, if you claim to be a neutral forum and then stack the deck with hardened partisans, like Pamela Karlan on	This was in an interview commenting on Trump's May 28	Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), " Meet

	<p>Commission (FCC) Commissioner Brendan Carr</p>		<p>For Twitter, generally, to stop “silencing conservative voices.”</p>	<p>Facebook’s oversight board, it really undermines confidence. If you put on people who fantasize about Trump getting shot, I think that raises a lot of questions about what’s going on. Ultimately how that may or may not factor into rulemaking at the FCC . . . we’re going to have to see.” (See the last 30 seconds of the Squawk interview.)</p> <p>“CEO Jack Dorsey is ‘weaponizing’ the company for ‘his own partisan political beliefs.’”</p> <p>“Meet your new speech police! Facebook now has an Oversight Board empowered to take down posts. Gotta be non-partisan people, right? Nope! 1 is Pam Karlan: testified to impeach @POTUS, ‘baron’ Trump line, Obama DOJ, & NYT calls ‘full-throated, unapologetic liberal torchbearer.’” (Carr on Twitter)</p>	<p>Executive Order (cracking down on “censorship” on Twitter after they started fact-checking him on COVID-19).</p>	<p>Your New Speech Police,” Twitter, May 6, 2020, 6:52 p.m.</p> <p>Mary Quill, “Facebook’s ‘Speech Police’ Criticized for Lack of Trump Supporters,” Latin Post, May 8, 2020.</p>
<p>June 16, 2020</p>	<p>Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)</p> <p>Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)</p>	<p>Facebook Google Twitter</p>	<p>Take down “misinformation” about COVID-19.</p>	<p>Pelosi: “Google and Facebook have built their businesses to amplify the most inflammatory content, no matter how dangerous or false . . . a reckoning is coming, as Congress, employees of these companies, advertisers and the public work as one to shine a bright light on the division and distribute this information proliferating online. And together, we must send a message to social media executives: You will be held accountable.” (Pelosi in George Washington University forum about COVID-19 disinformation.)</p> <p>Pelosi: “We need to send a message to social media executives that you will be held accountable.”</p> <p>Blumenthal said that the tech companies are “complicit” in the scams and fraud that has been going on through their platforms. They are “in effect aiding and abetting the spread of deceptive and misleading info that do grave harm to people or threaten that harm.”</p>	<p>In mid-July, Twitter began a concerted effort to remove QAnon accounts from its platform, framing the campaign as a way to prevent offline harm.</p>	<p>“Forum on the Harms of COVID-19 Social Media Disinformation,” George Washington University, Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics, June 16, 2020.</p> <p>Will Sommer, “QAnon-ers’ Magic Cure for Coronavirus: Just Drink Bleach!” <i>Daily Beast</i>, January 28, 2020.</p> <p>“Social Media Platforms Are Profiting from COVID-19 Misinformation: Nancy Pelosi,” George Washington University, Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics, June 16, 2020.</p> <p>Twitter Safety (@Twitter Safety), “We’ve been clear that we will take strong enforcement action on behavior that has the potential</p>

						to lead to offline harm. In line with this approach, this week we are taking further action on so-called 'QAnon' activity across the service," July 21, 2020, 8:00 p.m., https://twitter.com/twittersafety/status/1285726277719199746 .
July 15, 2020	Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)	Twitter	Take any necessary measures to secure a security breach before it continues to threaten users' privacy and data security.	"I am concerned that this event may represent not merely a coordinated set of separate hacking incidents but rather a successful attack on the security of Twitter itself. As you know, millions of your users rely on your service not just to tweet publicly but also to communicate privately through your direct message service. A successful attack on your system's servers represents a threat to all of your users' privacy and data security."		Josh Hawley, letter to Jack Dorsey , July 15, 2020.
July 29, 2020	Member of Congress Jaime Raskin	Facebook	Join a boycott called the Stop Hate for Profit Campaign condemning efforts by white supremacists to disrupt Black Lives Matter protests.	"So they're asking you to remove these pages and essentially to join the movement for civil rights by not allowing that kind of content. Their boycotters include a lot of big companies, including Patagonia, Levi, McDonald's, VW, Heineken and so on, but you seem not to be that moved by their campaign. I just wonder what you think about what they're asking you to do?"		"Big Tech Antitrust Hearing Full Transcript," rev, July 29, 2020.
July 29, 2020	Member of Congress David Cicilline	Facebook	Remove "harmful lies" and "false speech" from Facebook.	"My first question is, Mr. Zuckerberg, do you agree with that principle that there are limits to harmful and false speech, and that are particularly important when it comes to the health and safety of the public? . . . And so you agree you have a responsibility to remove harmful lies from your platforms correct?"		"Big Tech Antitrust Hearing Full Transcript," rev, July 29, 2020.
July 30, 2020	Sen. Michael Lee (R-UT)	Facebook Google Squarespace Twitter	Letter that vaguely threatens/provides warning that if they don't change their "discriminatory" moderation, Congress will "conduct oversight and review of our nation's laws" to ensure the platforms address the anti-conservative discrimination. Vague threats of pursuing more antitrust action.	"I am specifically concerned about corporations wielding their power unilaterally to silence opinions they dislike . . . conservative voices have found themselves deplatformed, demonetized or otherwise penalized in recent years." "Fortunately we are not without recourse . . . [Congress] should not neglect its responsibility to conduct oversight and review of our nation's laws to ensure they address modern circumstances."		Michael S. Lee, letter to Sundar Pichai, Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Dorsey, and Anthony Casalena , July 30, 2020.

August 6, 2020	Rep. Pelosi (D-CA) and Democratic Women’s Caucus	Facebook	Stop the spread of gendered disinformation and misogynistic attacks against women leaders.	<p>“Women in public life make our democracies stronger, more representative and equitable. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that countries and localities led by women leaders tend to fare better in their outcomes. Unfortunately, women in politics face pervasive sexism, hate, harassment, and threats of violence on your platform that make it more difficult for them to succeed in public life. We are imploring Facebook to do more to protect the ability of women to engage in democratic discourse and to foster a safe and empowering space for women.”</p> <p>“According to a study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, ‘ . . . social media have become the number one place in which psychological violence—particularly in the form of sexist and misogynistic remarks, humiliating images, mobbing, intimidation and threats—is perpetrated against women parliamentarians.’”</p>		Nancy Pelosi and Democratic Women’s Caucus, letter to Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg , August 6, 2020.
September 11, 2020	Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)	Netflix	Remove the film <i>Cuties</i> from Netflix; Cotton and Banks also called for a criminal investigation of Netflix, alleging that the film was child pornography.	<p>Cotton: “Like any parent, I find @netflix decision to peddle child pornography disgusting. And it’s criminal. @TheJusticeDept should take swift action.”</p> <p>Banks: “As a father of three young daughters, I find ‘Cuties’ sickening. Glad to join @SenTomCotton in calling on the DOJ to bring charges against Netflix for distribution of child pornography.”</p>	Netflix changed the promotional poster, description, and other artwork originally used for the film. “We’re deeply sorry for the inappropriate artwork that we used for <i>Mignonnes/Cuties</i> ,” Netflix said in a statement. “It was not OK, nor was it representative of this French film which won an award at Sundance. We’ve now updated the pictures and description.”	Louise Hall, “ Lawmakers Demand Netflix Probe over Controversial Film ‘Cuties,’ ” <i>Independent</i> (UK), September 12, 2020.
September 24, 2020	Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)	Twitter	Platform action regarding tweets by, or the account of, a well-known but unnamed left-wing activist and Floridian Democratic congressional candidate Pam Keith, in the name of fairness or equal protection.	<p>“The following are blue checkmark tweets and accounts that exist on Twitter today, unlike president they haven’t been fact checked or tagged for violation of standard by @jack.”</p> <p>“Another example is a well-known online activist of the left . . . who falsely accused a Texas state trooper of rape.”</p> <p>“This activist also used Twitter to threaten the lives of police officers in Kenosha Wisconsin, Twitter said this didn’t violate their standards.”</p> <p>“This tweet is word-for-word from a candidate challenging Representative Brian Mast, she tweeted, I quote, ‘is that really the new rule we want, killing is okay if it’s a bad guy? It’s now open season on</p>		Zachary Evans, “ Congressional Candidate Praised by DCCC Chairwoman Asked ‘Is It Open Season?’ on Killing Trump Admin. Officials, ” <i>National Review</i> , August 28, 2020.

				<p>Trump, Barr, Kavanaugh, Pompeo, ' can you imagine if the president or any Republican said that about Democrats."</p> <p>"My only hope is that the secret service took this threat more seriously than @jack."</p>		
October 1, 2020	Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)	<p>Facebook</p> <p>Google</p> <p>Twitter</p>	<p>Democrats argue that subpoenas are Republican attempts to intimidate tech into dialing back removal for conservative posts related to the election (on voter fraud, early declaration of winner, etc.) and to set back their efforts to moderate content around the election.</p>	<p>"[I am] worried Republicans would use the hearing to push the companies to stop taking down false or misleading content."</p> <p>"This feels like an attempt to work the refs five weeks out from the election."</p>		<p>Ryan Tracy, "Senate Panel Authorizes Subpoenas for Top Social-Media CEOs," <i>Wall Street Journal</i>, October 1, 2020.</p>
October 1, 2020	Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	<p>Facebook</p> <p>Google</p> <p>Twitter</p>	<p>Democrats argue that subpoenas are Republican attempts to intimidate tech into dialing back removal for conservative posts related to the election (on voter fraud, early declaration of winner, etc.) and to set back their efforts to moderate content around the election.</p>	<p>Cantwell expressed concern that the upcoming hearings were an attempt to get the companies to stop taking down false information related to the upcoming election and to the pandemic: "What I don't want to see is a chilling effect on individuals who are in a process of trying to crack down on hate speech and misinformation about Covid during a pandemic."</p>		<p>U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportations, "Cantwell Statement on Vote to Authorize Subpoenas for Facebook, Twitter, Google CEOs," press release, October 1, 2020.</p>
October 1, 2020	Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)	<p>Facebook</p> <p>Google</p> <p>Twitter</p>	<p>Democrats argue that subpoenas are Republican attempts to intimidate tech into dialing back removal for conservative posts related to the election (on voter fraud, early declaration of winner, etc.) and to set back their efforts to moderate content around the election.</p>	<p>"I am not interested in using our subpoena power to try to play or game the refs days before an election, which is clearly what Republicans are doing."</p> <p>"These are not what our oversight powers are supposed to be used to do."</p> <p>"The timing shows that these subpoenas are clearly calculated to chill efforts to get misinformation or falsehoods from abroad or domestic groups [removed]."</p>		<p>Brittany Bernstein, "Senate Republicans Take Aim at Liability Protections for Social Media Companies ahead of November Election," <i>National Review</i>, October 1, 2020.</p>
October 2, 2020	Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)	<p>Twitter</p>	<p>Take down all tweets wishing harm or death to "The Squad" in the name of fairness/equal application of Twitter's policy on abusive behavior, which is</p>	<p>"Seriously though, this is messed up. The death threats towards us should have been taken more seriously by @TwitterComms" (Tlaib on Twitter).</p>		<p>Rashida Tlaib (@RashidaTlaib), Twitter, October 2, 2020, 10:10 p.m.</p>

	Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)		being applied to tweets about President Trump.	<p>“So . . . you mean to tell us you could’ve done this the whole time?” (Ocasio-Cortez on Twitter, referring to the policy on abusive behavior that Twitter has reminded its users of with respect to the recent surge of content wishing harm or death on President Trump.)</p> <p>“Please DM me.” (Pressley on Twitter, inviting direct communication from @TwitterComms after they announced their new policy about tweets wishing harm/death.)</p> <p>Omar also tweeted a GIF, seemingly expressing incredulity.</p>		<p>Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC), Twitter, October 2, 2020, 9:59 p.m.</p> <p>Ayanna Pressley (@AyannaPressley), Twitter, October 2, 2020, 10:13 p.m.</p> <p>Ilhan Omar (@IlhanMN), Twitter, October 2, 2020, 8:45 p.m.</p>
October 14, 2020	Sen. Hawley (R-MO)	Facebook Twitter	Restore the <i>New York Post</i> Hunter Biden article and explain why it was removed.	<p>“This news report—one clearly relevant to the public interest—has been censored on Facebook. A representative from your company has publicly stated that Facebook will be ‘reducing [the story’s] distribution on our platform’ while a third-party fact-check takes place.”</p> <p>“The seemingly selective nature of this public intervention suggests partiality on the part of Facebook. And your efforts to suppress the distribution of content revealing potentially unethical activity by a candidate for president raises a number of additional questions, to which I expect responses immediately.”</p>		Josh Hawley, letter to Mark Zuckerberg , October 14, 2020.
October 14, 2020	Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)	Facebook Twitter	Restore the Hunter Biden <i>New York Post</i> article	“Facebook’s decision to affirmatively restrict the availability of election related information in a manner that helps Biden avoid scrutiny raises questions about Facebook’s commitment to free speech and free and fair elections.”		Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim_Jordan), Twitter, October 14, 2020, 7:58 p.m.
October 14, 2020	Sen. Cruz (R-TX)	Facebook Twitter	Allow the <i>New York Post</i> article about Bidens and Burisma back on platform (removing was “. . . obvious and transparent attempt to influence the upcoming election. ”) Cruz asked Facebook and Twitter to explain why the article was removed	<p>“Taking down this article is an obvious attempt to influence the election.”</p> <p>“Quite hypocritical given its willingness to allow users to share less well-sourced reporting critical of other candidates for public office.”</p>		Sen. Ted Cruz (@SenTedCruz), Twitter, October 14, 2020, 6:24 p.m.
October 15, 2020	Trump and Trump campaign	Twitter	After the Trump campaign’s Twitter account was suspended on October 15, 2020, for tweeting a video	“It’s going to all end up in a big lawsuit . . . And there are things that can happen that are very severe that I’d rather not see happen . . . But it’s probably going to have to.”	Twitter reinstated Trump’s account on October 15, 2020, but it was unclear whether the threat	“ Twitter restricts Trump’s campaign account from tweeting ,” Reuters, October 15, 2020.

			related to the removed <i>New York Post</i> report, Trump threatened a lawsuit if the unfair content moderation didn't stop.		accelerated the account's reinstatement.	
October 27, 2020	Senate Commerce Committee (Republicans)	Facebook Google Twitter (mostly Twitter)	Stop flagging Trump's content, reinstate the <i>New York Post</i> account, provide a transparent process for content removal, stop unfairly removing conservative voices.	Wicker: "It's time to end the industry's 'free pass' to 'control, stifle, and even censor content.'" Cruz: "Mr. Dorsey, who the hell elected you and put you in charge of what the media are allowed to report and what the American people are allowed to hear, and why do you persist in behaving as a Democratic super PAC silencing views to the contrary of your political beliefs?" Cruz: "The three witnesses we have before this committee collectively pose I believe the single greatest threat to free speech in America and the greatest threat we have to free and fair elections." Cruz threatened to reform Section 230 if they [the social media companies] didn't start being "fairer." Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) also appeared to grill Pichai over whether Google still employed an engineer who was "unkind" to her (the insinuation being that Google employs people that harbor anti-conservative animus): "Well, he has had very unkind things to say about me, and I was just wondering if you all had still kept him working there."	Twitter reinstated the <i>New York Post</i> on 10/30. Unclear how related this action was to the hearings.	"Twitter, Facebook and Google CEOs Testify before Senate Commerce Committee," YouTube video, October 28, 2020, 3:48:15.
October 27, 2020	Senate Commerce Committee (Democrats)	Facebook Google Twitter (mostly twitter)	Accused Republicans on committee of conducting hearing in bad faith and seeking to coerce tech actors to change their content moderation rather than bring an actual substantive legal claim.	Schatz: "Do not let the United States Senate bully you . . . [you already] bent over backwards and overcompensated" to right wing voices. Blumenthal: "This hearing is an attempt to bully and browbeat the platforms here to try to tilt them towards President Trump." Tester: The "hearing is a 'cheap stunt' aimed at pushing the platforms to allow misinformation to remain online and to raise doubts about the election . . . directive to hold the hearing came 'straight from the White House.'"		"Twitter, Facebook and Google CEOs Testify before Senate Commerce Committee," YouTube video, October 28, 2020, 3:48:15.
October 28, 2020	Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)	Facebook	Change algorithms to not amplify Russian or Iranian disinformation and remove it from the platform.	"Mr. Zuckerberg, if President Trump shares Russian or Iranian disinformation, lying about the outcome of the election, can you commit that you will make sure your algorithms do not amplify that content and that you will immediately take that content down?"		"Tech CEOs Senate Testimony Transcript October 28," rev, October 28, 2020.

October 28, 2020	Sen. Markey (D-MA)	Facebook	Remove group recommendations until the election results have been certified.	"Mr. Zuckerberg will you commit to stopping all group recommendations on your platform until U.S. election results are certified? Yes or no?"		"Tech CEOs Senate Testimony Transcript October 28," rev, October 28, 2020.
October 28, 2020	Sen. Markey (D-MA)	Facebook	Immediately take down any potential tweets Trump publishes encouraging violence about the election results.	"Mr. Zuckerberg, can you commit that, if the president goes on Facebook and encourages violence after election results are announced, that you will make sure your company's algorithms don't spread that content and you will immediately remove those messages?"		"Tech CEOs Senate Testimony Transcript October 28," rev, October 28, 2020.
October 28, 2020	Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)	Google	Update Sen. Blackburn on the employment status of Blake Lemoine.	"Well, he has had very unkind things to say about me, and I was just wondering if you all had still kept him working there."		Steven Overly, "Blackburn Asks Google If Employee Who Criticized Her Still Has a Job," Politico, October 28, 2020.
November 17, 2020	Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)	Facebook	Take down Steve Bannon's account.	"Will you commit to taking down that account, Steve Bannon's account?"		"Mark Zuckerberg and Jack Dorsey Testimony Transcript Senate Tech Hearing November 17," rev, November 17, 2020.
November 17, 2020	Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)	Facebook	Commit to extensive "content modification playbook" for the 2020 election.	"My question to you is will you commit to the same kind of robust content modification playbook in this coming election, including fact-checking, labeling, reducing the spread of misinformation, and other steps, even for politicians in the runoff elections ahead?"		"Mark Zuckerberg and Jack Dorsey Testimony Transcript Senate Tech Hearing November 17," rev, November 17, 2020.
January 8, 2021	Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)	Apple Google	Do something about Parler's lack of content moderation.	"What are @Apple and @GooglePlay doing about this?" and, after action from Apple, "Good to see this development from @Apple. @GooglePlay what are you going to do about apps being used to organize violence on your platform?"	Apple and Google removed Parler from their app stores.	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC), "What Are @Apple and @GooglePlay Doing about This?," Twitter, January 8, 2021, 5:59 p.m.
March 2021	Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy	Facebook	No specific direct request, but it seemed Murthy was pressing for stronger anti-misinformation measures in the meetings.	"In one meeting this spring, Murthy presented anecdotes from nurses and doctors. The health workers said COVID-19 patients had been afraid to take the vaccine because of false information they read on Facebook. Last month, Murthy took his criticisms public, stating in his first formal advisory to the country that misinformation was 'an urgent threat to public health.'"		Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Cecilia Kang, "Inside the White House—Facebook Rift over Vaccine Misinformation," New York Times, August 20, 2021.
March 2021	Rob Flaherty	Facebook	Take action against posts that promoted false information but do not clearly violate Facebook's rules.	"Mr. Flaherty, the White House director of digital strategy, pressed for more information on what the company would do about posts that promoted false information about vaccines but did not clearly violate the platform's rules, such as widely shared videos that cast doubt on the effectiveness of the vaccines."		Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Cecilia Kang, "Inside the White House—Facebook Rift over Vaccine Misinformation," New York Times, August 20, 2021.

March 25, 2021	Member of Congress Mike Doyle	Facebook Google Twitter	Take down the 12 “disinformation super spreaders” about the COVID-19 vaccine.	“Will you all commit to taking these platforms down today?”		Disinformation Nation: Social Media’s role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation, Before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (March 25, 2021).
March 25, 2021	Member of Congress Anna Eshoo	Twitter	Take down Robert Kennedy Jr.’s tweets about the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the 12 “disinformation superspreaders.”	“Will you take this down, and why haven’t you? And also, why haven’t you banned the 12 accounts that are spewing deadly COVID misinformation?”		Disinformation Nation: Social Media’s role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation, Before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (March 25, 2021).
July 16, 2021	Jen Psaki	Aimed at major social media platforms such as Facebook , Twitter , and others	Be more explicit about impact of vaccine misinformation; enforce more consistent cross-platform bans.	“So a couple of the steps that could be constructive for the public health of the country are providing for Facebook or other platforms to measure and publicly share the impact of misinformation on their platform and the audience it’s reaching.” “Also with the public, with all of you to, create robust enforcement strategies that bridge their properties and provide transparency about rules. You shouldn’t be banned from one platform and not others for providing misinformation out there. Taking faster action against harmful posts.”		“Press Secretary Jen Psaki White House Press Conference Transcript July 16,” rev, July 16, 2021.
July 16, 2021	President Joe Biden	Facebook	Implied request to remove COVID-19 vaccine misinformation.	“They’re killing people—I mean they’re really, look, the only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated.” “And they’re killing people.”		Donald Judd, Maegan Vazquez, and Donie O’Sullivan, “Biden Says Platforms Like Facebook Are ‘Killing People’ with Covid Misinformation,” CNN, July 17, 2021.
September 7, 2021	Sen. Elizabeth Warren	Amazon	Stop returning recommendations and search results for anti-vaccine books.	“Within 14 days, provide both a public report on the extent to which Amazon’s algorithms are directing consumers to books and other products containing COVID-19 misinformation and a plan to modify these algorithms so that they no longer do so.”		Elizabeth Warren, letter to Andy Jassy , September 7, 2021.
October 13, 21	Massachusetts government (allegedly)	Twitter	Remove Shiva Ayyadurai from Twitter in response to alleged election misinformation.	“Somewhere in this process, Twitter shut down Ayyadurai’s account entirely. Ayyadurai insisted that this was because of its close relationship with government officials, and that because it happened soon after he had mentioned a Massachusetts official, it was somehow evidence that they were working hand in hand with the government.”	Twitter did remove Ayyadurai, although it is uncertain if it was due to a request from the Massachusetts government.	Mike Masnick, “Shiva Ayyadurai Drops His Potentially Interesting Lawsuit about Massachusetts Officials Complaining to Twitter about

				<p>“In the end, the judge agreed to dismiss most of the claims, but noted that he was actually still interested in the 11th Amendment questions regarding qualified immunity, along with the 1st Amendment questions regarding government suppression of political speech, and told Ayyadurai and Cornell to file a new complaint just about that issue. He also ‘reserved judgment’ on the question of sanctions for Ayyadurai.”</p> <p>Ayyadurai eventually voluntarily dropped all claims in the case.</p>		<p>Tweets,” <i>Techdirt</i>, August 12, 2021.</p>
March 25, 2021 (Energy and Commerce)	Member of Congress Mike Doyle	Facebook	The accounts were labeled, and Facebook changed its algorithms to make the content harder to find, but did not altogether ban them.	At close of hearing, Tilis and Coons suggested that both Zuckerberg and Dorsey should commit to returning again next month. Blumenthal laughed, saying he fully expected there to be many more hearings (basically since they won’t and cannot practicably change policies to appease all in power).	-	Shannon Bond, “Just 12 People Are Behind Most Vaccine Hoaxes on Social Media, Research Shows,” NPR, May 14, 2021.
	Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)	Facebook	Remove Steve Bannon’s account (“Twitter did it . . . Why didn’t you?”).	“How many times is Steve Bannon allowed to call for the murder of government officials” before Facebook suspends him?		
November 17, 2020 (Senate Judiciary Committee hearings)	Sen. Hawley (R-MO)	Facebook	Provide list of all instances of collaboration with other platforms over content moderation decisions (specifically, provide list of every mention of the words Google or Twitter in their Tasks scheduling tool).	“I’d rather do this without issuing a subpoena, but we will issue a subpoena” (at roughly 2:57).		Sen. Hawley, Senate Judiciary Hearing, “Breaking the News: Censorship, Suppression, and the 2020 Election,” 03:13:00, November 17, 2020
November 17, 2020 (Senate Judiciary Committee hearings)	Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Facebook Twitter	Stop biased removals.	<p>“It seems like you’re the ultimate editor” (opening statement, referring to Twitter and Facebook’s decision to limit the distribution of the <i>New York Post</i> article).</p> <p>“When you have companies that have the power of governments and have far more power than traditional media outlets, something has to give.”</p>		
November 17, 2020 (Senate Judiciary Committee hearings)	Sen. Robert Kennedy (R-MS)	Twitter	“Get out of the censorship game” and moderate consistently with First Amendment principles (where you don’t take stuff down unless it is criminal in nature or unless it incites violence).			
November 17, 2020 (Senate)	Andy Slavitt, a top pandemic	Facebook	Instead of just labeling posts or promoting credible sources,	“The officials asked the tech companies to prevent false statements about the virus from circulating. The officials also asked the companies		Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Cecilia Kang, “Inside the White

Judiciary Committee hearings)	adviser for Biden, and Ron Klain, Whitehouse Chief of Staff (met in several meetings with Facebook executives)		the Biden administration asked Facebook to <i>remove</i> content with vaccine misinformation.	how many ‘fence sitters,’ people hesitant about getting vaccinated, were exposed to misinformation on their sites.”		House-Facebook Rift over Vaccine Misinformation ,” <i>New York Times</i> , August 10, 2021.
September 19, 2019	Sen. Cruz (R-TX) Sen. Hawley (R-MO) Sen. Kevin Kramer (R-ND) Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)	Facebook	Remove allegedly biased fact-check from video arguing that abortion is never medically necessary.	Facebook removed a fact-check on an anti-abortion video after it received a letter of complaint from four Republican senators. The video, posted by campaigner Lila Rose for the anti-abortion organization Live Action, claimed that abortion is never medically necessary. Facebook put a fact-check on the video, which argued some abortions are medically necessary. Republican Senators wrote letter to Facebook accusing it of censorship, arguing that the doctors used to make the fact-check were not impartial. They said that the code of conduct established by the International Fact-Checking Network (ICFN) stipulates that fact-checkers not advocate or take policy decisions on issues which they fact-check. Facebook said it had been in touch with the ICFN to open an independent investigation: “While the IFCN investigates, we are removing the relevant fact checks and have communicated this to the members of the US Senate who brought this specific concern to our attention.” The letter said: “No reasonable person would describe Grossman or Shickler as neutral or objective when it comes to the issue of abortion yet Facebook relied on their rating to suppress and censor a pro-life organization with more than 3 million followers.” The letter calls this a violation of “Facebook’s supposed commitment to non-partisanship” (both doctors worked for outspoken, progressive pro-choice organizations).	Facebook removed doctors’ fact-check of the anti-abortion video after Cruz’s complaints.	Lila Rose, “ Abortion Is Never Medically Necessary ,” video, August 8, 2019. Se. Ted Cruz, Sen. Josh Hawley, Sen. Kramer, Sen. Braun, “ Letter to Mark Zuckerberg ,” September 11. 2019
April 10, 2019, to April 12, 2019	President Biden	Facebook	Take down Trump’s misleading posts and generally stem the tide of false information, fact-checking election-related material that	“We call for Facebook to proactively stem the tide of false information by no longer amplifying untrustworthy content and promptly fact-checking election-related material that goes viral.”		Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, “ Our Open Letter to Facebook ,” 2022.

			<p>goes viral. Implement a two-week pre-election period, during which all political advertisements must be fact-checked before they are permitted to run on Facebook.</p>	<p>“We call for Facebook to stop allowing politicians to hide behind paid misinformation in the hope that the truth will catch up only after Election Day. There should be a two-week pre-election period during which all political advertisements must be fact-checked before they are permitted to run on Facebook.”</p> <p>“And we call for clear rules—applied to everyone, including Donald Trump—that prohibit threatening behavior and lies about how to participate in the election.”</p> <p>“Anything less will render Facebook a tool of misinformation that corrodes our democracy. Facebook has promised better. And American voters deserve better.”</p>		
<p>June 6, 2020 (150 days before election)</p>	<p>The FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF)</p>	<p>Facebook Google Instagram</p>	<p>The FITF “encouraged” Facebook, Instagram, and Google to remove or restrict ads on the <i>American Herald Tribune</i> because they were a national security threat and had problematic ties to Iran.</p>	<p>FBI Director Christopher Wray told reporters at a White House briefing that FBI officials had “met with top social media and technology companies several times” during the year, “providing actionable intelligence to better enable them to address abuse of their platforms by foreign actors.”</p>	<p>Facebook, Instagram, and Google’s adtech all removed <i>American Herald Tribune</i> content.</p>	<p>Gareth Porter, “FBI Launches Open Attack on ‘Foreign’ Alternative Media Outlets Challenging US Foreign Policy,” Antiwar.com, June 9, 2020.</p>
<p>January 25, 2011</p>	<p>Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-WI)</p>	<p>United States Internet Service Provider Association</p>	<p>Demands the association to adopt putatively voluntary data retention scheme.</p>	<p>“If you aren’t a good rabbit and don’t start eating the carrot, I’m afraid we’re all going to be throwing the stick at you.”</p>		<p>Declan McCullagh, “DOJ Pressed for Details on Internet Tracking Plan,” CNET, January 25, 2011.</p>