

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 23, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has jurisdiction over matters including digital commerce, consumer protection, data security, the internet, and interstate and foreign commerce.

As you are aware, recent reports have contained disturbing allegations about the potentially widespread abuse by third parties of personal information from Facebook's user community. These abuses include allegations that a university professor deceptively harvested the data of as many as 50 million Facebook users potentially without their consent and then improperly shared that data with third parties.<sup>1</sup> These allegations raise many concerns about what user information app developers are given access to, how app developers are given access to users' information on the Facebook Platform, how Facebook enforces its policies for access to user data, what has happened to Facebook users' information since the functionality was launched in 2007, and whether there are other entities misusing user information.

We appreciate Facebook's willingness to provide a briefing for staff earlier this week. However, at that briefing many questions were unanswered. Further, the Facebook representatives did not have personal knowledge of events prior to their tenure at Facebook. During the briefing, your comments regarding the six changes Facebook is making in response to this incident were posted on Facebook.<sup>2</sup> You have also made statements that your focus for 2018 is making sure that "the time we all spend on Facebook is time well spent."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Deepa Seetharaman, *Facebook Suspends Data Firm That Helped Trump Campaign*, Wall Street Journal, March 17, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/zuck/posts/10104712037900071>

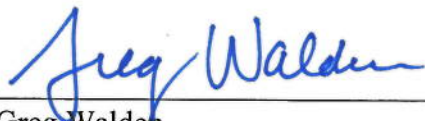
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/zuck/posts/10104413015393571>

In comments to the press, you stated that the person with the most knowledge at Facebook about what Congress is trying to learn is the appropriate witness for a congressional hearing. As the Chief Executive Officer of Facebook and the employee who has been the leader of Facebook through all the key strategic decisions since its launch, you are the right person to testify before Congress about those decisions and the Facebook business model.

The Committee intends to hold a hearing in the near future. The hearing will examine the harvesting and sale of personal information from more than 50 million Facebook users, potentially without their notice or consent and in violation of Facebook policy. The hearing will also explore broader questions about Facebook's policies at the time the Facebook Platform was launched, today, and in the future regarding both Facebook's use of user information and the access to user information Facebook provides to others.

We will be in touch to determine a date and time for the hearing. Our staff will also be following up regarding the unanswered questions from the briefing and we appreciate your continued cooperation with the Committee.

Sincerely,



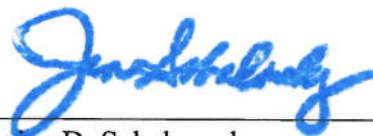
Greg Walden  
Chairman



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member



Robert E. Latta  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce  
and Consumer Protection

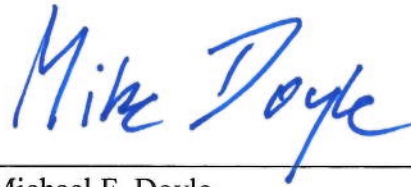


Janice D. Schakowsky  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce  
and Consumer Protection



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Marsha Blackburn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology



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Michael F. Doyle  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology