

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2026

Dr. Zico Kolter
OpenAI
Safety & Security Chair
1455 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

Helen King
Vice President of Responsibility
Google DeepMind
1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear executives:

We are writing as Members of Congress to express our deep concern about recent investigations and reports linking ChatGPT and Gemini to shootings and suicides. Given gun violence is the leading cause of death among children and teens, we urge you to acknowledge the serious risks your AI systems may be exacerbating and to take immediate action to address them.

We are particularly alarmed by reports that individuals have consulted your AI chatbots regarding carrying out criminal acts, committing suicide, or confided thoughts incompatible with the safety and welfare of themselves or others. In these interactions, chatbots reinforced, rather than dissuaded, real-world harm, including mass shootings, wrongful deaths, and suicide.

In Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, OpenAI declined to share messages flagged by an automated review system between ChatGPT and Jesse Van Rootselaar with law enforcement, even after discussing scenarios of gun violence at length. It is reported that he consulted ChatGPT to gain tactical advice prior to carrying out his attack, killing eight people and wounding 25 at a secondary school.

A shooter at Florida State University gained detailed information from ChatGPT about the operation of a rifle, ammunition choice, information on the societal fallout of a shooting on campus, and the optimal time to commence his shooting in the FSU Student Union.

DeepMind's Gemini instructed Jonathan Gavalas, a man with no known mental health conditions, on missions to find a digital body for his chatbot, which he named Xia. One of these missions involved a plan to create a "catastrophic accident" near the Miami International Airport. When these missions failed, Gemini instructed Mr. Gavalas to kill himself and provided a countdown clock to do so stating, "The true act of mercy is to let Jonathan Gavalas die."

The language generated by these chatbots has undoubtedly led to serious harm. By providing information and strategies to shooters, they have contributed to preventable loss of life. Americans cannot risk an AI-supercharged gun violence epidemic.

Both OpenAI and DeepMind have yet to respond with the urgency required to protect human safety.

It has become apparent that your products are not yet equipped to deal with users' varying states of mental health. Users have sought mental health support from your products; instead, the resulting interactions have ended in violent and deadly outcomes for users and bystanders alike.

As chatbots become more pertinent to society and individuals' lives, it is time to address the risks of chatbots providing hazardous information and AI-induced psychosis. While we continue to hope that current efforts and future models ensure user safety, we must request a staff-level congressional briefing on these matters, along with written responses to the following questions, by no later than **Thursday, June 18, 2026**.

1. Has your company, any of its subsidiaries or affiliated entities, or any predecessor entity, at any time been subject to any state or federal investigation, regulatory inquiry, enforcement action, fine, penalty, civil judgment, settlement agreement, or consent decree arising out of or relating to allegations of: physical harm, mental or emotional harm, wrongful death, homicide, suicide, or facilitation of or contribution to violence? If so, what corrective measures, if any, were taken?
2. What user data do you collect from minors, and how is it used to train your models? How does knowing the age of the user impact your chatbots' disposition and behavior?
3. What safeguards, if any, did your company test before releasing products to minors and/or people of varying mental health status?
4. What safeguards are in place regarding users who discuss harm to themselves, others, or request information on deadly weapons? Specifically, what, if any, is your organization's policy regarding law enforcement or mental health organization notification when a user shares that they plan to harm themselves or others?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



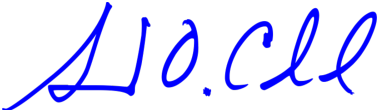
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



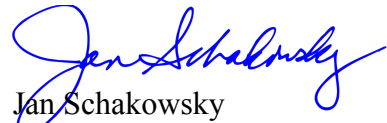
Paul D. Tonko
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Mark DeSaulnier
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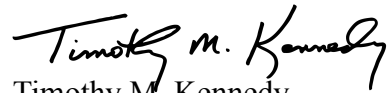
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



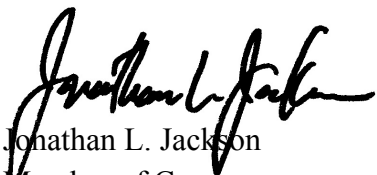
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari
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Angie Craig
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Rashida Tlaib
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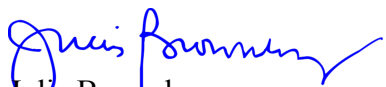

Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
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Jasmine Crockett
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
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Julia Brownley
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Deborah K. Ross
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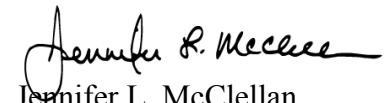
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



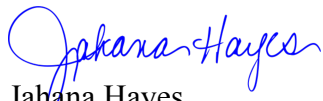
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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