

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2018

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Facebook, Inc.
1601 Willow Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

We are writing to urge Facebook and other prominent Internet search and social media companies to take immediate steps to block or limit access to 3-D gun printing materials available online.

Recently, a company called Defense Distributed announced that it would publish over the internet the blueprints for 3-D printable firearms, in the form of Computer Aided Design (CAD) files. The CAD files would allow users from all over the world to automate production of a gun using a 3-D printer. The publication of these CAD files would therefore make available to any person deadly weapons that are untraceable and undetectable, thereby undermining firearms laws and posing a serious risk to the safety of our communities.

While a district court recently issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the online publication of these CAD files, the order was just temporary. Moreover, there are already reports that thousands of such CAD files have already been downloaded by individuals, who can now disseminate the files privately or publicly on a variety of forums.

That is deeply troubling.

We appreciate that your company, like other social media companies, has terms of service that allow Facebook to remove content like 3-D gun designs from its platforms:

Terms of Service:

"You may not use our Products to do or share anything:

That violates these Terms, our Community Standards, and other terms and policies that apply to your use of Facebook.

We can remove content you share in violation of these provisions and, if applicable, we may take action against your account."

Community Standards:

"Do Not Post...Content that attempts to sell, gift, exchange, or transfer firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, or explosives between private individuals. This includes content that:

- *Mentions or depicts firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, or explosives and a product unrelated to firearms, and*
- *Makes an attempt to sell or transfer including any of the following, unless posted by an entity representing a brick-and-mortar store, legitimate website, or brand:*
 - *Explicitly mentioning the product is for sale or trade*
 - *Asking the audience to buy*
 - *Listing the price or noting that the product is free*
 - *Encouraging contact about the product either by*
 - *Explicitly asking to be contacted*
 - *Including any type of contact information*
 - *Making an attempt to solicit the item for sale, defined as*
 - *Stating that they are interested in buying the good, or*
 - *Asking if anyone else has the good for sale/trade."*

Based on your own terms of service, we urge you to proactively prevent the online dissemination of these dangerous 3-D designs across all of your platforms. Doing so will make all of our communities safer.

Please also let us know if there are ways that we might be able to assist in this endeavor.


Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Robert Menendez in blue ink.

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Richard Blumenthal in blue ink.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Edward J. Markey in blue ink.

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator