

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2018

Mr. Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer
Google, Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, California 94043

Dear Mr. Pichai:

We are writing to urge Google 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 Google to remove content like 3-D gun designs from its platforms:

"We may review content to determine whether it is illegal or violates our policies, and we may remove or refuse to display content that we reasonably believe violates our policies or the law."

Further, individual terms of individual Google products recognize the necessity of removing content that facilitate access to regulated goods, such as firearms:

Google+:

"Our Services enable discussion of many topics, but we do not allow content that facilitates the sale of regulated products and services, including alcohol, gambling, pharmaceuticals and unapproved supplements, tobacco, fireworks, weapons, or health/medical devices."

Youtube:

"We also restrict content that intends to sell certain regulated or illegal goods and services through direct sales or links to sites that sell these items."

Google Sites:

"Do not use Sites to sell or facilitate the sale of regulated goods and services, such as alcohol, gambling, pharmaceuticals and unapproved supplements, tobacco, fireworks, weapons, or health/medical devices."

Google Ads:

"We want to help keep people safe both online and offline, so we don't allow the promotion of some products or services that cause damage, harm, or injury. Examples of dangerous content: Recreational drugs (chemical or herbal); psychoactive substances; equipment to facilitate drug use; weapons, ammunition, explosive materials and fireworks; instructions for making explosives or other harmful products; tobacco products."

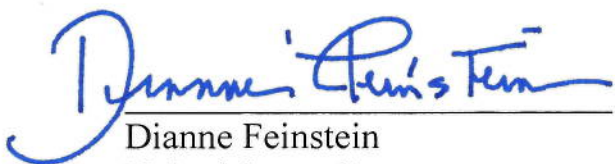
Blogger:

"Regulated Goods and Services: Do not use Blogger to sell or facilitate the sale of regulated goods and services, such as alcohol, gambling, pharmaceuticals and unapproved supplements, tobacco, fireworks, weapons, or health/medical devices."

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.

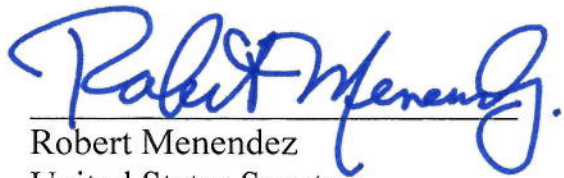
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dianne Feinstein in blue ink.

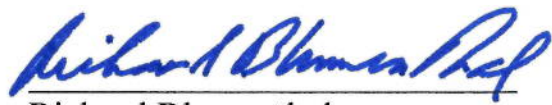
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Bill Nelson in blue ink.

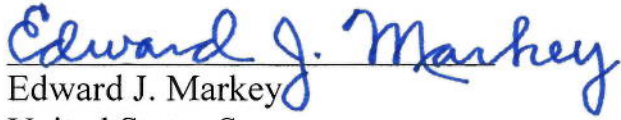
Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Robert Menendez in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized 'R' and 'M'.

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Richard Blumenthal in blue ink, with a cursive style.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Edward J. Markey in blue ink, with a cursive style.

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator