

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2018

Ms. Marissa Mayer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Yahoo, Inc.  
701 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Sunnyvale, California 94089

Dear Ms. Mayer:

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

*"You agree not to use the services to: . . .  
(ii) make available any content that is harmful to children, threatening, abusive, tortious, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically, or otherwise objectionable..."*

*We may remove and refuse to display content that violates the Terms or applicable laws or regulations, but that does not mean that we monitor the Services or review or screen any content."*

*Further, your Guidelines state:*


*"[Oath, Yahoo's parent company, will] remove content and/or deactivate accounts that violate these Community Guidelines or our Oath Terms of Service . . . When we become aware of a potential violation, if we determine that content violates our policies or applicable law, we will take appropriate action. We may make exceptions to these policies based on artistic, educational, or documentary considerations, or when there are other substantial benefits to the public from not taking action. But there are a few clear lines-we have a zero tolerance policy toward:  
-content that promotes or supports violent criminal behavior, organized criminal activity, or acts of terrorism, including content supporting or celebrating terrorist organizations, their leaders, or associated violent activities."*

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

  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator