

January 14, 2022

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San Bruno, CA 94066

Dear Ms. Wojcicki,

We write as Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) to respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the problem of Spanish-language misinformation on your platform, and to learn more about the steps that your company is taking to address this critical issue.

Addressing Spanish-language misinformation on YouTube must remain an urgent priority. Many federal and state agencies, Members of Congress, and public health organizations rely on platforms like YouTube to communicate life-saving health information and share federal resources during the COVID-19 pandemic and two-thirds of Hispanics treat YouTube as a primary source for information about politics and elections. Latinos were also found to spend twice as much time on YouTube as non-Latino adults. Despite this vital role YouTube plays in civic engagement and public health for Latino communities, there is significant evidence that Spanish language misinformation remains rampant on the platform.

This is not the first time Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are expressing deep concern on this issue. Many Members have publicly raised the alarm on the spread of Spanish-language misinformation online.^{3,4,5} In July, Members led a letter signed by twenty six members of Congress on this very issue demanding concrete proof of investment in combating Spanish-language

 $^{^{1}\,\}underline{\text{https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-spanish-sp$

² Id.

³ https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/tech-companies-blasted-inaction-spanish-language-disinformation-rcna4489

⁴ https://www.lujan.senate.gov/press-releases/lujan-klobuchar-urge-tech-ceos-to-take-action-against-disinformation-dozen-combat-coronavirus-vaccine-disinformation/

⁵ https://www.menendez.senate.gov/newsroom/press/menendez-hirono-warren-urge-facebook-to-take-immediate-actions-to-stop-covid-19-misinformation-in-languages-other-than-english

misinformation on your platform.⁶ Members have also called publicly for online platforms to release information on their effectiveness at detecting the prevalence of violative content separated by language. To date, we find the answers given by YouTube to be deeply concerning.

As Hispanic Members of Congress, we have a duty to provide oversight of the role digital platforms play in how we communicate with our communities and how our communities receive important information. Ensuring that Spanish-language misinformation is swiftly and effectively addressed is a priority, and we respectfully ask for a meeting to discuss solutions to the problem of Spanish language misinformation on your platform.

Respectfully,

Raul Ruiz, M.D. Chair

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Nanecto Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragán First Vice-Chair Congressional Hispanic Caucus Adriano Espaillat Second Vice-Chair Congressional Hispanic Caucus

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Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Teresa Leger Fernández Freshman Representative Congressional Hispanic Caucus Robert Menendez United States Senator Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Ben Ray Luján United States Senator Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Tony Cárdenas Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus Nydia M. Velázquez Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Jim Costa Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus Grace F. Napolitano Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

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Lori Trahan Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

 $^{^6 \} https://www.lujan.senate.gov/press-releases/lujan-klobuchar-cardenas-lead-colleagues-urging-tech-ceos-to-combat-spanish-language-disinformation/$

Norma A Jours

Norma Torres Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Vernica Exubar

Veronica Escobar Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Jesús G. "Chuy" García Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Alexandria Ocasio Cortez Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus Jung Hong

Jimmy Gomez Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Joaquin Castro

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Member of Congress
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Sulvia P. Garaia

Sylvia R. Garcia Member of Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus Ruben Gallego Member of Congress

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Filemon Vela Member of Congress

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Luille Roybal-Allard

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