

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2026

Adam Presser
CEO
TikTok USDS Joint Venture
5800 Bristol Parkway
Culver City, CA 90230

Dear Mr. Presser:

As you know, tens of millions of TikTok users are under the age of 18. While TikTok requires users to be at least 13 years old to create an account, new users are only required to provide their date of birth with no actual way to prove whether the input is truthful. I am concerned that there are a significant number of Americans younger than 13 using the app, and even more who are younger than 18 bypassing TikTok's built-in safeguards for teen and younger teen accounts.

Among adolescents, excessive engagement with digital platforms has been associated with mental health disorders such as heightened impulsivity, attention deficits, an increased risk of addiction-like behaviors, and higher rates of body dysmorphic disorder. In addition, research indicates that those who spend more time on social media tend to be more susceptible to depression because of increased social isolation and a lack of healthy activities like exercise and sleep. Separately, giving teens unrestricted access to post content on social media can result in more tangible risks like cyberbullying and stalking.

Underage users should not be able to post sensitive information or access inappropriate content. It is critical that TikTok works to put in place commonsense, enforceable safeguards for its younger users.

Specifically, I urge you to put the following measures in place:

- Require a parent or legal guardian to verify the date of birth of any user under the age of 18 creating an account on TikTok.
- Implement procedures to utilize usage and transactional data, which TikTok already collects, to verify the age of users potentially under the age of 18.

To implement these measures, TikTok should work directly with the leading operating system developers to prevent new users from bypassing parental verification and create a clearer picture of a new user's true age. For example, if a user is designated as a child in their iCloud account, meaning they are under 13, Apple could share that information with TikTok and the user therefore would not be able to create a TikTok account.

Many studies have shown that adolescents use social media apps like TikTok despite age verification restrictions. TikTok notably has one of the highest rates amongst social media users

under the age of 13. 68 percent of respondents to a recent study said they had TikTok accounts and 39 percent said TikTok was the social media site they used the most.

TikTok's recent transfer of its U.S. operations to a new joint venture under American ownership was a meaningful step towards securing Americans' data and protecting against the Chinese Communist Party's intention to leverage the platform to spew disinformation, undermine democracy, and promote antisemitic propaganda. Taking the actions outlined above would represent another significant improvement of the platform's commitment to Americans' safety. **Please update me on the concrete steps TikTok is taking to strengthen its age verification measures via letter to 106 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 or email (Josh.Gottheimer@mail.house.gov).**

I look forward to continuing to work with you to protect American children online.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress