

May 17, 2017

Consumer Watchdog
DeliverFund
Faith and Freedom Coalition
The Rebecca Project for Justice
Trafficking in America Taskforce
Nacole S., mother of trafficking victim

Mr. Larry Page, Chief Executive Officer, Alphabet Inc.
Dr. Eric Schmidt, Chairman, Alphabet Inc.
Mr. Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer, Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Re: Necessary CDA Section 230 reform

Dear Mr. Page, Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Pichai:

We are writing to ask that Alphabet Inc. and its Internet unit Google take immediate steps to halt child sex-trafficking via the Internet and cease its campaign to blindly oppose necessary modifications in Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act that would allow such cynical businesses as Backpage.com to be held accountable for actively aiding and abetting child sex trafficking. By one count 73% of child trafficking reports in the United States involve Backpage.com.

The attached in-depth report from Consumer Watchdog, DeliverFund, Faith and Freedom Coalition, The Rebecca Project for Justice, Trafficking in America Taskforce and Nacole S., mother of a sex trafficking victim, details Backpage's wrongful activities and how Google has spent millions to fund efforts to thwart any changes in Section 230. Primary recipients of Google's largess are two nonprofit organizations, The Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF). As documented in our report, CDT and EFF have frequently jumped to aid Backpage as it faced various legal challenges.

You, CDT and EFF, may claim to be protecting free speech and Internet freedom, but the activities by the groups you have funded have done little more than protect a notorious sex-trafficking hub from being held accountable by its victims. Backpage's abuses and the fight by its victims to hold it accountable are the subject of a new documentary film, *I am Jane Doe*. Watch it. You can download it from Google Play. We predict you'll finally understand the abuses that you are enabling.

Section 230 of the CDA provides that a website can't be held liable for what's posted on its site by others. This promotes free speech on the Internet, which is vital to our democracy. It has protected your business model. Internet freedom, however, must not come at the expense of children who are sex trafficked. Just as the First Amendment does not allow you to shout fire in

a crowded movie house, or to assist hit men and drug dealers in their criminal activity, CDA Section 230 must not be allowed to protect an exploitative business that is built on child sex trafficking.

We call on you to support a narrow amendment to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act that would allow Backpage to be held accountable for its ongoing facilitating of child sex trafficking.

Sincerely,

Nacole S.
Mother of sex trafficking victim

John M. Simpson
Consumer Watchdog

Nic McKinley
DefenseFund

Timothy Head
Faith and Freedom Coalition

Kwame Fosu
The Rebecca Project for Justice

Jerome Elam
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