## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2022

Parag Agrawal, PhD Chief Executive Officer Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market Street Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

Dr. Agrawal,

We write with serious concerns about recent decisions made by Twitter, Inc., and the general direction of the company under your leadership as CEO.

Since Twitter's founding in 2006, it has become an arena for public discourse enabling journalists, academics, and politicians to directly speak to and engage with the public.

On November 18, 2020, while you were serving as Twitter CTO, you stated in an interview with the MIT Technology Review that "Our role is not to be bound by the First Amendment, but our role is to serve a healthy public conversation and our moves are reflective of things that we believe lead to a healthier public conversation." On November 29, 2021, Mr. Jack Dorsey resigned as CEO, with the board of directors unanimously selecting you as his successor.<sup>2</sup>

On December 29, 2021, Twitter suspended the Twitter account of Dr. Robert Malone<sup>3</sup>, a noted vaccine researcher involved in the development of mRNA vaccines<sup>4</sup> which would enable the development of COVID-19 vaccines decades later. Dr. Malone has questioned the U.S. Government and pharmaceutical industry's conduct during their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and development of vaccines.

We ask that you answer the following questions:

- 1) What was the specific post violating Twitter's COVID-19 misleading information policy<sup>5</sup> that led to the suspension of Dr. Robert Malone's Twitter account (@RWMaloneMD)?
- 2) Have Twitter's COVID-19 misleading information policy<sup>5</sup> or its synthetic and manipulated media policy<sup>6</sup> changed since your becoming CEO? If so, would Dr. Malone's account have been suspended under the prior policies for the same post?
- 3) One of Twitter's stated principles is "Making it straightforward. Simple is good, but straightforward is better. Our product, our behavior, and our work habits should all be transparent and to the point." Do you believe that suspending accounts without

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/11/18/1012066/emtech-stage-twitters-cto-on-misinformation/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.cnbc.com/2021/11/29/twitter-ceo-jack-dorsey-is-expected-to-step-down-sources-say.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://twitter.com/RWMaloneMD

<sup>4</sup> https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/86/16/6077.full.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/medical-misinformation-policy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/manipulated-media

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://about.twitter.com/en/who-we-are/our-company

explanation complies with your company's principle of being "straightforward" and "transparent?"

For far too long, Big Tech companies, such as Twitter, have been able to censor important voices without recourse available to those affected. While the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress has failed to address the need to update and modify Federal law and regulations impacting the internet and social media, it is highly probable that under new leadership in 2023, Congress will spearhead an effort to hold Big Tech accountable for its arbitrary censorship practices. Your answers to the above questions will greatly assist us in understanding how your company operates and inform us as we look to modernize laws protecting the First Amendment rights of American citizens.

Sincerely,

Troy E. Nehls

Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson

Member of Congress

Bill Posey

Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney

Member of Congress

Andy Biggs

Member of Congress

Dan Bishop

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