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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

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March 7, 2024

TikTok Inc.
5800 Bristol Parkway
Suite 100
Culver City, CA 90230

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you with grave concerns regarding the targeting of American children with Chinese Communist Party propaganda – during school hours – and recruiting minors to act as foreign agents for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Xi Jinping.

On March 7, 2024, Members of Congress, including myself, were deluged with a phone call advocacy campaign – with many calls reportedly coming from children – regarding discussions underway in Congress concerning the CCP and its agents’ attempts to sabotage the American economy.¹

As Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, I have extensively monitored the policies and methods the People’s Republic of China (PRC) security forces have employed to exert intrusive social controls over their own population.

As you know, TikTok parent ByteDance, which is headquartered in the PRC with offices in Beijing, is compelled to participate in a strategic partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Public Security. It appears the corporate structure of Bytedance Ltd., ByteTeam Ltd., TikTok Ltd., TikTok LLC, and TikTok Inc. are designed to provide layers of insulation to the CCP in its attempts to transform the character of America’s social fabric.

The policies and practices of ByteDance and TikTok represent an attempt by the CCP to assert their authoritarian agenda through soft power. The fact that children were not only used to advance this agenda but were targeted to be the primary agents of lobbying Congress on behalf of a foreign power is greatly disturbing.

There is no way a business entity located in the PRC may avoid partnership with the Chinese Communist Party, and there is no reason for the United States Congress to believe TikTok is able to avoid compliance with CCP demands that advance its authoritarian practices

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/tech/tiktok-faces-u-s-ban-in-new-draft-bill-e9fd35fd>

around the world, including demands that violate the human rights of those they deem undeserving of basic human dignity.²

In order to best protect the interests of the United States, it is imperative that Congress determine whether the CCP, directly or indirectly, demanded TikTok use children to lobby Congress on their behalf.

I request you provide an explanation as to why you are actively recruiting American children to act as foreign agents for the Chinese Communist Party, and provide all internal documentation related to the genesis, approval, and execution of the advocacy campaign initiated by TikTok on March 7, 2024.

Please respond to this request within 7 calendar days.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

²<https://www.wsj.com/articles/former-bytedance-executive-claims-chinese-communist-party-accessed-tiktoks-hong-kong-user-data-e9d5554f>