

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

October 7th, 2021

Adam N. Selipsky
Chief Executive Officer
Amazon Web Services
410 Terry Avenue
North Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Selipsky,

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a substantial increase in the production and distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) online. This increase has been verified independently by federal law enforcement, prosecutors, and third-party stakeholder organizations. Among the worst offenders is OnlyFans.com (OnlyFans). OnlyFans has created a unique paywall-protected ecosystem that shields posts from public view unless accessed by a paying subscriber. This has successfully inhibited law enforcement's ability to proactively monitor the site, hindering investigations while simultaneously enabling purveyors of malicious and illicit sexual content.

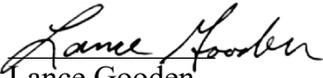
With disturbing and increasing regularity, media accounts detail episodes of rape, CSAM, and sextortion broadcast on OnlyFans. For instance, in June, a football coach in Boston was arrested after posting videos of himself raping a child. In August, law enforcement rescued a fifteen-year-old girl who stated that she had been molested repeatedly for over a year and "monetized" online on OnlyFans. In September, another man was arrested following his posting of non-consensual images and videos on the site.

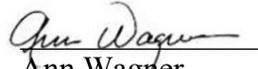
OnlyFans is doing little to safeguard against CSAM, child pornography, sex trafficking, and non-consensual sexually explicit material from being hosted and promoted on its platform. Leaked internal documents reported by the BBC implicate the company and detail how OnlyFans indicates "that staff are asked to be more lenient towards successful accounts..." This leaves the impression that there is an existing practice of turning a blind eye to illicit content that is successful in maximizing profits and user engagement.

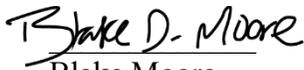
Rather than diminishing, this problem is increasing in frequency and intensity. A Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) Special Agent specializing in online investigations across a broad spectrum of platforms such as peer-to-peer, social media, file-sharing and live-streaming platforms, has witnessed 30-50 files and/or incidents of CSAM per day originating on OnlyFans. This is significant and suggests woefully inadequate age verification practices, which directly empower producers and distributors of CSAM, as well as human traffickers. In other words, OnlyFans and its platform have enabled the direct monetization of illicit sexual activity in a scalable and commercial way.

It is our understanding that AWS is OnlyFans' cloud services provider. As a market leader and innovator, AWS possesses a higher responsibility to the public and American communities. It is incumbent on you to adopt effective standards to prevent your services from being used for the promotion of criminal activity. Such standards are for your benefit and are critical to maintaining your customers' trust. As such, we urge you to thoroughly re-evaluate AWS's relationship with OnlyFans and its business practices to determine if the company is a responsible partner, or if AWS would be better served by terminating its relationship with OnlyFans.

Sincerely,

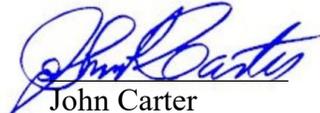

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