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CAROLYN WEST, PH.D. Professor, Clinical Psychology, University of Washington April 9, 2024

Mr. Evan Spiegel CEO, Snap, Inc. 2772 Donald Douglas Loop N Santa Monica, CA 90405

## Re: Snapchat to remain on the Watchlist for the 2024 Dirty Dozen List

Dear Mr. Spiegel:

We want to first thank you again for the positive changes Snap made in response to the concerns the National Center on Sexual Exploitation outlined last May – in particular the <u>multiple changes to reduce children's access to sexually explicit content</u> on Stories and Discover.

As you know, we officially moved Snapchat from the 2023 Dirty Dozen List to the Watchlist. The Watchlist is reserved for entities previously on the Dirty Dozen List that have made significant changes to problematic policies or platform designs, but that NCOSE deems must still be closely monitored to assess if changes are being implemented and are resulting in actual safety improvements.

We are writing to inform you that **Snapchat will remain on the Watchlist for 2024 and will not be featured as a main target on the 2024 Dirty Dozen List**. The List will be made public tomorrow, April

NCOSE determined that we could not presently remove Snapchat from the Watchlist for the following reasons:

- → The continued cycle of investigations, revelations from the January 31 Congressional hearing, research reports, survivor stories, parents' anecdotes, and law enforcement testimony make clear that Snapchat is still one of the most dangerous apps for teens.
- → While we appreciate the policy changes that were instituted, to our knowledge, no substantive improvements have been made to the most dangerous, riskiest aspect of Snapchat to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse: the snaps themselves.

1201 F St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20004 | 202.393.7245 | EndSexualExploitation.org | public@ncose.com

→ Recent testing by NCOSE researchers found that the Stories and Discover sections are still surfacing highly sexualized content to new accounts set to 13 and 14-years-old without even searching for anything.

We have shared some of our recently collected evidence with Snap's Global Head of Platform Safety, Ms. Beauchere, and she assured us your teams are looking into why inappropriate content is still surfacing. NCOSE will continue periodically testing the efficacy of the new policies and features and will be sure to share our findings.

We also shared with Ms. Beauchere that should Snapchat make substantive changes to improve the safety of the snaps themselves – for example automatically blurring sexually explicit content together with warnings – we would be thrilled to remove Snap from the Watchlist.

Our Vice President and Director of Corporate Advocacy will be following up with Ms. Beauchere within the next few weeks to discuss our specific concerns and recommendations in further detail.

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Thank you for your attention,

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CEO Interim President

Cc:

Robert Murphy, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder

Jacqueline Beauchere, Global Head of Platform Safety

Betsy Kenny Lack, Vice President, Global Brand Experience