

2023 Alphabet Annual Meeting of Shareholders

Statement given by Annie McGrath

My name is Annie McGrath. Five years ago, I had a beautiful family with two amazing children. Then, one night in 2018 my only son, Griffin Glen McGrath, tragically died while trying “the pass-out challenge” which he had discovered on YouTube. He was only 13, and every single minute of the day my family grieves this immeasurable loss.

Griffin was an extraordinary, brilliant, and talented child. He was popular, hilarious, and quick-witted - but most importantly, he was a sweet soul and touched everyone he met with his genuine kindness. He loved science experiments and engineering. He invented his own homemade Spider-Man web shooter that was strong enough to hold a chair from the ceiling. He also created a new, stronger, and faster version of Rubik’s cube by using magnets and had begun selling it online. It was his interest in learning about science experiments that led him to frequent YouTube regularly. He even had his own YouTube channel and got 7.5m views on one of his posts.

Sadly, Griffin’s death is not an anomaly. Challenges posted on YouTube have proven lethal to many. A recent Bloomberg article stated that “the blackout challenge” alone has been linked to the deaths of at least 17 children over the past 18 months. *Erik’s Cause*, a nonprofit started by my friend Judy Rogg, who also lost her son to the choking game, has documented the deaths of 1,385 children who took the challenge.

Thousands of parents across the globe have discovered just how dangerous Alphabet’s products - specifically YouTube - can be to younger users. It’s not just dangerous challenges that are of concern; too often YouTube serves younger users’ content that involves violence and militias, markets fad diets, promotes drug use, and more. And young users are more vulnerable to the untruthful, biased, and even toxic material delivered through AI in a human-like way.

Alphabet’s inaction in the face of such widespread harm should give investors pause. It demonstrates the company’s failure to appropriately mitigate risk - legal risk, regulatory risk, and human risk. Without change, more kids will suffer.

While Alphabet’s Audit and Compliance Committee is charged with evaluating risk, I’ve learned that investors have no idea how the committee operates. That’s why the independent audit of and report on the Audit and Compliance Committee’s performance proposed by Resolution #15 is long overdue.

Alphabet opposes this resolution, claiming an outside review would not result in better direction or performance. But given the board’s lack of disclosure there is no way for concerned shareholders to assess the board’s actions.

My son’s life shouldn’t be the cost of doing business. Something has to change. Strong support for Resolution #15 will send the message to Alphabet that shareholders demand greater transparency and accountability.