



# ParentsTogether

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

We are reaching out on behalf of a group of ten parents whose children have been victims of sextortion on Meta platforms. Sextortion – where cyber criminals use explicit images to blackmail victims – is a [serious crime](#), which has recently seen a “huge increase” according to the [FBI](#). A 2023 [survey](#) of 1,000 parents found Facebook and Instagram were the #1 and #2 platforms where parents say their children have been contacted by sexual predators, groomed for abuse, and sextorted. The families we are supporting have been seriously and irreparably harmed by their abusive experience on Facebook and Instagram, resulting in significant trauma and often death. Although all the families have been in touch with federal and/or local law enforcement, they have been unable to get justice for their kids.

Mary Rodee, one of the parents, asked us to relay this message:

*My son Riley was the life of the party – a joyful, funny kid who loved sports and dreamed of a job in environmental conservation. But his young life was tragically cut short at just 15 by a blackmailer he met on Facebook. A mere six hours after this criminal used Facebook to try and extort money from Riley under the threat of revealing private photos of him, Riley died from suicide. I want justice for Riley and to help ensure other families don't suffer as we did from Facebook sextortion.*

These parents and their supporters from nonprofit organizations would like to meet with Meta executives to share their stories and understand what Meta is currently doing, and is planning to do, to better protect kids online from the threat of sextortion. Can you please let us know when national safety and policy representatives would be available for a meeting? These incidents have had catastrophic effects on their families and they want to protect other kids and families from being harmed on your platform.

We hope Meta will be a partner to parents everywhere in fighting online sextortion and agree to meet with these parents, hear their stories, and discuss their concerns.

Sincerely,

ParentsTogether on behalf of

Mary Rodee and Darren Basford  
Potsdam, NY

Parents of Riley who was sextorted on Facebook and died by suicide at age 15

Stephen and Angel Carnes

Floyd County, GA

Parents of Erin who was sextorted on Facebook and died by suicide at age 15

D. & J.

Texas

Parents of a son who was sextorted on a META platform and died by suicide at age 14

South Carolina State Rep. Brandon Guffey

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Father of Gavin who was sextorted on Instagram and died by suicide at age 17

J.

California

Mother to a son who was sextorted on a META platform at age 15

J.

New Hampshire

Mother to a daughter who was sextorted on Instagram at age 12

Rosemarie Maneri

Lisbon, NY

Mother to Shylynn who was sextorted on Facebook from age 16 through 18 when she died by suicide

Jenn Markus

Columbus, OH

Mother of Braden who was sextorted on Instagram and died by suicide at age 15

Brian Montgomery

Starkville, MS

Father of Walker who was sextorted on Instagram and died by suicide at age 16

S.

Minnesota

Parents of a son who was sextorted on Instagram and died by suicide at age 19

Jason and Christina Scheffer

Huson, MT

Parents of Waylon who was sextorted on Instagram and died by suicide at age 16

Daryn Simons

Los Angeles, CA

Mother of daughter who was sextorted on Instagram at 17