

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2025

Mr. Yangtian (Chris) Xu  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shein  
250 Massachusetts Ave, NW Suite 660  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Yangtian,

On October 31, 2025, the French Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) discovered that the e-commerce website Shein was selling sex dolls with a childlike appearance.<sup>1</sup> One description reading “sex doll ... male masturbation toy with erotic body ...” was used to advertise a doll resembling a little girl clutching a teddy bear stuffed toy.<sup>2</sup> According to the DGCCRF, “[The dolls’] description and categorization on the site leave little doubt as to the child-pornographic nature of the content.”<sup>3</sup> The French government moved to temporarily suspend Shein’s website in the country following this discovery.<sup>4</sup> Given these reports, we are deeply concerned that Shein’s e-commerce website may have been used to facilitate transactions of childlike sex dolls in the U.S. to American customers. We seek additional information regarding this matter.

According to news reports, a Shein representative confirmed that childlike sex dolls were sold by third-party sellers on Shein’s platform starting October 16, 2025.<sup>5</sup> This stands in direct opposition to Shein’s stated Marketplace Policies for third-party sellers. The Shein 2024 Sustainability and Social Impact Report describes how all third-party sellers must comply with

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<sup>1</sup> Liz Alderman, *France Threatens to Ban Shein Over Sale of ‘Childlike’ Sex Dolls*, The New York Times (Nov. 3, 2025) available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/03/business/shein-france-sex-dolls.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Estelle Dautry, Vincent V  rier, *Shein: Sex dolls shaped like little girls sold on the e-commerce giant's website*, Le Parisien (Nov. 1, 2025) available at <https://www.leparisien.fr/economie/shein-des-poupees-sexuelles-en-forme-de-fillette-vendues-sur-son-site-internet-01-11-2025-C3EC2OOGFJGB5DO2FOSO3IZE4U.php>.

<sup>3</sup> The DGCCRF (French Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control) has referred the matter to the public prosecutor after discovering that SHEIN was selling sex dolls of a pedopornographic nature, Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (Nov. 1, 2025) available at <https://presse.economie.gouv.fr/la-dgccrf-saisit-le-procureur-de-la-republique-apres-avoir-constate-la-commercialisation-de-poupees-sexuelles-a-caractere-pedopornographique-par-shein/>.

<sup>4</sup> Noemie Bisserbe, Chelsey Dulaney, *France to Suspend Shein Sales After Finding Childlike Sex Dolls, Weapons*, The Wall Street Journal (Nov. 5, 2025) available at [https://www.wsj.com/business/retail/france-suspends-shein-sales-after-finding-childlike-sex-dolls-1c42a9db?gaa\\_at=eafs&gaa\\_n=AWetsqfw5QJAK1vNsw5NmxxVwmgduXJrkp9XmMjcprZcLvEm23w7mQZhYQLM5RNZIKAKA%3D&gaa\\_ts=691228b8&gaa\\_sig=bXrD3H\\_ToPyMoEOag0eSBDBYjP2akYZNsWWPjXzgrJrqarcxAUTsbqq9CvyFr92IPwQxPsWT7SkbvTQpFwH6bg%3D%3D](https://www.wsj.com/business/retail/france-suspends-shein-sales-after-finding-childlike-sex-dolls-1c42a9db?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqfw5QJAK1vNsw5NmxxVwmgduXJrkp9XmMjcprZcLvEm23w7mQZhYQLM5RNZIKAKA%3D&gaa_ts=691228b8&gaa_sig=bXrD3H_ToPyMoEOag0eSBDBYjP2akYZNsWWPjXzgrJrqarcxAUTsbqq9CvyFr92IPwQxPsWT7SkbvTQpFwH6bg%3D%3D).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

its Restricted Products Policy, which states that “The sale of illegal, unsafe, or restricted products is strictly prohibited on SHEIN Marketplace. This includes items that promote ... child abuse and exploitation ...”<sup>6</sup> There is no question as to whether these dolls encourage child abuse and exploitation. Leading paraphilia researcher Dr. Peter Fagan, former Associate Professor of Medical Psychology and Director of the Sexual Behavior Consultation Unit at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, previously warned that contact with childlike sex dolls would likely have a “reinforcing effect” on pedophilic ideation and, “in many instances, cause it to be acted upon with greater urgency.”<sup>7</sup> Upon discovery of the dolls and the involvement of French authorities, Shein imposed a total ban on the sale of sex dolls in its marketplace and suspended the “adult products” category in early November.<sup>8</sup> This leaves a lengthy window where childlike sex dolls were available for sale on the Shein platform.

While we commend reports that Shein imposed a ban on the sale of all sex dolls and has taken steps to temporarily suspend all sales by third-party vendors on its marketplace in France, it is unacceptable that these products were ever allowed to be sold on Shein’s website.<sup>9</sup> We are concerned at Shein’s lack of judgement and its inability to ensure third-party sellers comply with its Marketplace Policies intended to prevent child abuse and exploitation. We are also concerned as to the possibility that these childlike sex dolls were available for sale in the U.S., encouraging pedophilia and the sexual exploitation of children.

In response to these concerns, we would like to offer Shein an opportunity to respond to these serious breaches in internal controls and consumer trust and to provide information to help us better understand whether these products were ever available for sale in the U.S. We therefore request that you respond to the following questions by December 20, 2025:

1. Were childlike sex dolls ever made available for sale in the U.S. on the Shein e-commerce marketplace through a third-party seller on or after October 16, 2025, or at any time prior?
2. Were childlike sex dolls sold in the U.S. to American customers through the Shein marketplace, including in states and territories that have statutorily banned their sale, such as Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Utah and Hawaii? If so, on how many occasions?

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<sup>6</sup> 2024 Sustainability and Social Impact Report, Shein (2024), 73-74, available at <https://www.sheingroup.com/our-impact/reports/>.

<sup>7</sup> Roc Morin, *Can Child Dolls Keep Pedophiles from Offending?*, The Atlantic (Jan. 11, 2016) available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/01/can-child-dolls-keep-pedophiles-from-offending/423324/>.

<sup>8</sup> Sudip Kar-Gupta, *Inti Landauro, Shein bans sex dolls from marketplace after France threatens to shut it down*, Reuters (Nov. 4, 2025) available at <https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/france-could-ban-sheins-access-french-market-if-it-resumed-sale-child-like-sex-2025-11-03/>.

<sup>9</sup> Liz Alderman, *France Moves to Block the Shein Website Over a Sex Doll Scandal*, The New York Times (Nov. 5, 2025) available at [https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/05/business/france-shein-sex-dolls.html?campaign\\_id=4&emc=edit\\_dk\\_20251106&instance\\_id=165894&nl=dealbook&regi\\_id=269436528&segment\\_id=210073&user\\_id=e3f0aaf7aa45b4ebc02777c213c48c21](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/05/business/france-shein-sex-dolls.html?campaign_id=4&emc=edit_dk_20251106&instance_id=165894&nl=dealbook&regi_id=269436528&segment_id=210073&user_id=e3f0aaf7aa45b4ebc02777c213c48c21).

3. Did Shein notify U.S., state or territorial law enforcement or consumer protection agencies about the availability of childlike sex dolls on its platform, including in states and territories where their sale is statutorily banned? If so, when and through what channels?
4. What steps will Shein take to recall any American customer orders of childlike sex dolls that may have already been fulfilled and to prevent the financial benefit of these sales?
5. Shein's Marketplace Policies explicitly prohibit the listing and sale of products that promote child abuse and exploitation. What concrete measures, such as monitoring or third-party seller audits, will Shein implement to prevent childlike sex dolls from being listed and sold on its global e-commerce platform in the future?
6. Will Shein make a binding, company-wide commitment to permanently prohibit the sale of childlike sex dolls in its marketplace across all countries where it operates, including jurisdictions where such sales are not explicitly illegal, to eliminate any risk of facilitating pedophilic ideation or child exploitation?

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue, and we look forward to your timely response outlining the steps Shein will take to rectify this situation and ensure that its platform is never used to endanger American children.

Sincerely,



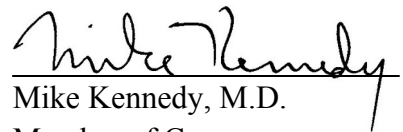
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

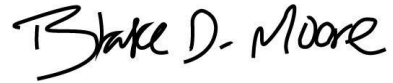


Mike Kennedy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



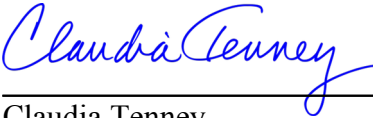
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Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



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Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



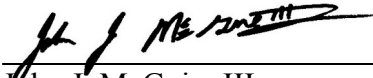
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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



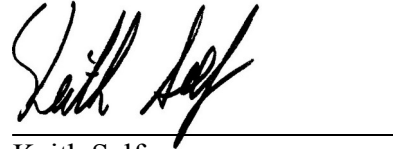
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John R. Carter  
Member of Congress



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John J. McGuire III  
Member of Congress



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Keith Self  
Member of Congress



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Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



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Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



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Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
Member of Congress



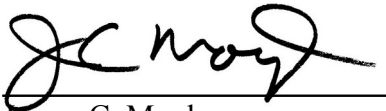
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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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James C. Moylan  
Member of Congress



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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



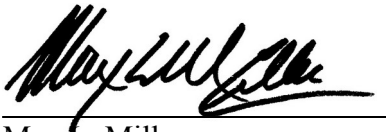
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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



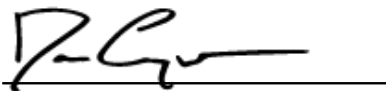
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Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



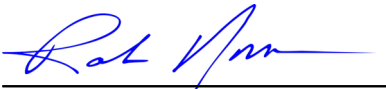
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Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



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Anna Paulina Luna  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



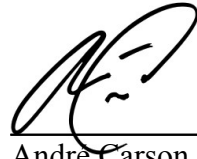
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



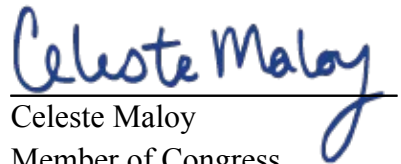
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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



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Celeste Maloy  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



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Ryan Mackenzie  
Member of Congress