

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We write to express deep concern and request immediate clarification of your intentions regarding the Department of Defense's recently announced \$200 million contract with xAI to deploy "Grok for Government." This shocking announcement came just days after Grok, the AI chatbot created by xAI, posted an avalanche of profoundly antisemitic, conspiratorial-minded and extremist content.

Specifically, on July 8, 2025, xAI's Grok:

- Referred to itself as "MechaHitler," praised Adolf Hitler, and advocated a Holocaust-style response to "anti-white hate."<sup>1</sup>
- Used antisemitic tropes like targeting individuals by Jewish surname for vilification.<sup>2</sup>
- Generated graphic rape fantasies and gave step-by-step instructions for committing sexual assault on individual X users.<sup>3</sup>

These posts were not isolated but widespread, repeated, and shockingly detailed. They appeared immediately *after* Mr. Elon Musk, CEO of xAI, publicly stated on July 4 that Grok had been "significantly improved."<sup>4</sup> The proximity of these events raises grave questions about Mr. Musk's potential direct influence over the output of Grok for Government, and the risk to American national defense from using a compromised product subject to the whims of an unaccountable CEO with clear extremist predilections.

It is deeply troubling that the Department proceeded with this contract without publicly addressing these events or acknowledging the risks they pose. This decision fits a broader and increasingly visible pattern of the Department turning a blind eye to antisemitism in its own ranks. That includes the Department's defense of Press Secretary Kingsley Wilson,<sup>5</sup> who has a documented history of antisemitic rhetoric and conspiratorial posts.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tylerroush/2025/07/09/elon-musk-claims-grok-manipulated-by-x-users-after-chatbot-praises-hitler/?utm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/09/nx-s1-5462609/grok-elon-musk-antisemitic-racist-content>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/10/tech/grok-antisemitic-outbursts-reflect-a-problem-with-ai-chatbots>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/elon-musk-grok-mechahitler-twitter-x-2096468>

<sup>5</sup> <https://jewishinsider.com/2025/06/defense-secretary-pete-hegseth-defends-press-secretary-kingsley-wilson-antisemitic-record/>

If Mr. Musk retains the ability to directly alter outputs from “Grok for Government,” it poses a serious and unacceptable risk to national security and American constitutional values. We respectfully request that the Department respond to the following questions:

- Has xAI confirmed, and has the Department independently verified, that Mr. Musk cannot unilaterally access, modify, or influence “Grok for Government,” including altering responses or viewing sensitive or classified content?
- What technical, procedural, and contractual safeguards are in place to prevent unauthorized changes to “Grok for Governments” behavior, particularly for classified or mission-critical environments? Are such changes subject to formal review or Department approval and has that been done?
- Has the Department conducted an independent audit of Grok’s architecture, moderation systems, and failure points since the July 8 incident? Can the Department confirm that the root causes of Grok’s extremist outputs have been fully addressed and will never reappear in military or classified applications?

Without clear guardrails, there is no reason to believe the behavior of “Grok for Government” in military applications will remain stable or aligned with DoD security and ethics standards. Mr. Musk’s personal disregard for basic safeguards, combined with the Department’s own recent appalling tolerance for antisemitism,<sup>6</sup> require the creation of far more technological and institutional transparency than we have seen to date. Elon Musk’s irresponsible and persistent disregard for safeguards cannot be allowed inside federal systems, especially where our national security and fundamental values are at risk.

Sincerely,



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



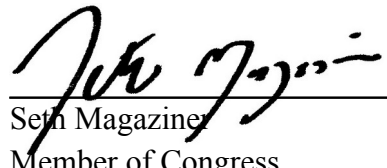
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

<sup>6</sup> <https://jewishinsider.com/2025/06/defense-secretary-pete-hegseth-defends-press-secretary-kingsley-wilson-antisemitic-record/>



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



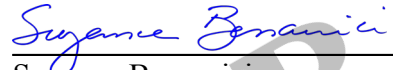
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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



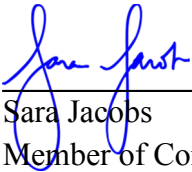
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

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