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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

ORIGINAL

FILE

Dockets  
Rm. 230

mm Docket 92-254

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2 FEB 1993

8310-MEA  
CN9300189

Honorable Sam Gejdenson  
House of Representatives  
2416 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

FEB - 5 1993

Dear Congressman Gejdenson:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Thank you for your letter on behalf of several constituents objecting to certain television campaign commercials concerning abortion. They describe these as very offensive and ask that such material be prohibited.

The issues raised by your constituents are currently being considered by the Commission. Your constituents' letters will be placed in the record of this proceeding.

I trust that the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

*Roy J. Stewart*

Roy J. Stewart  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List A B C D E

# Congressional

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM  
01/22/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300189	01/22/93	01/12/93	02/04/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Sam Gejdenson	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	Inquiry/complaint re: tv ads

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
MMB	<i>Erf</i>	<i>C+I</i>	

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
01/22/93	<i>1-25-93</i>	<i>1-25</i>	

REMARKS:

*0029  
1-13*

25 JAN REC'D

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2416 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2078

HOME OFFICE:  
P.O. BOX 2000  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
(203) 886-0139

94 COURT STREET  
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457  
(203) 348-1123



*MMB  
mm-ads-tv  
189*

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
January 12, 1993

**SAM GEJDENSON**  
2D DISTRICT  
CONNECTICUT  
COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC POLICY AND TRADE  
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR  
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
MAJORITY WHIP AT-LARGE

Office of The Secretary  
Federal Communications Cmsn.  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir Or Ma'am:

Enclosed are copies of letters I received from several constituents expressing their opposition to the airing of political advertisements allegedly depicting aborted fetuses. I understand that the FCC requires public comment on the advertising to be filed by January 22, 1993, and I request that these letters be made part of the record of public comment on this issue.

I would add that I concur in my constituents' request that the FCC declare political advertising which graphically depicts allegedly aborted fetuses to be indecent under current guidelines for appropriate material to be aired during hours when children may be in the viewing audience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



**SAM GEJDENSON**  
Member of Congress

21000, LOOK 21152  
044120  
50807

November 18, 1992

Congressman Samuel Gejdenson  
c/o Channel 8  
P. O. Box 1859  
New Haven, CT 06508

Dear Mr. Gejdenson:

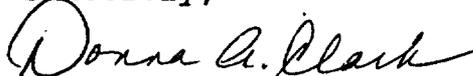
The purpose of this letter is to convey my outrage at the abortion advertisements aired on Channel 8 recently. They showed graphic pictures of aborted fetuses. Despite the warnings that the ads were about to be shown, many young children also saw them.

I have traveled to the former Soviet Union, and have always appreciated the many freedoms that we Americans enjoy and probably take for granted. This corruption of the intent of our First Amendment rights is perverse, to say the least.

As a fellow strong supporter of the pro-choice issue, I urge you to work for legislation that will allow TV station owners/managers to have some say in what types of advertisements are aired on their stations.

For what it is worth, I voted for you, but I share the current concern among voters that you appear somewhat arrogant, impatient, and lacking in integrity (the check-cashing caper). I wish you continued success in the pro-choice movement.

Sincerely,

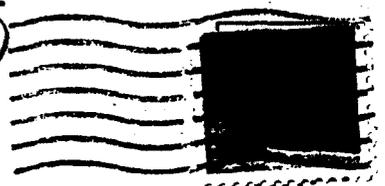


Donna A. Clark  
21 Inchcliffe Drive  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

WILLOW VALLEY... in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Offering 350 comfortable lodging rooms, 3 restaurants, golf course, unique gift mall, lifecare retirement communities, and elegant condominiums. Located 3 miles south of Lancaster, PA, on U.S. 222.

21000, LOOK 21152

NOV 23 1992  
#50804  
8



020211  
I found the advertisement for  
Pac Life very  
appearing and  
would like to see  
that kind of P.V.  
also stopped.

POST CARD

Sam Bejdenon  
Congress man  
PO Box 1859  
New Haven, Ct

Margaret L. Bivins  
79 Bolton  
Newtown, Ct.  
06254



NOV 23 1992

06508

5 Nov 1992

Dear Sam  
I ask your help to modify  
the existing law or pass  
a law that permits TV  
Station Managers to censor,  
modify, or prevent the  
showing of TV clips that  
are objectionable similar  
to the TV clip depicting  
aborted fetuses shown  
on Channel 8 during the  
recent political  
advertisements -

Sincerely,  
GEORGE H. HERVEY  
880 PEQUOT TRAIL  
STONINGTON, CT 06378

#50804  
21152  
K007  
17662  
1

AIDE MM document request (DO)  
 DATE 10/26 casework (DO)  
 NAME Henry Rapson legislation (DC)  
 ADDRESS 579 Laurel Hill Road opinion (DC)  
Norwich, CT 06360  
 CITY/ZIP 823 1143 21152  
 (daytime) ↑ 21000.LOOK  
 wk phone ↑ k: 095331  
 hm phone ↑ # 50842

HOW CONTACTED OFFICE: phone \_\_\_ walk-in \_\_\_ Norwich \_\_\_ Middletown \_\_\_ DC \_\_\_  
 referred by \_\_\_\_\_  
 office hours/location \_\_\_\_\_  
 town meeting/location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sam/location \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Saw an upsetting political ad  
 on Channel 8 on 5:30/6:30 News.  
 Ad is for independent candidate  
 running for state senate — shows  
 "decomposing fetuses" — Candidate  
 is "pro-life"  
 Question: Are commercials rated?  
 Can Sam do anything about it ...

AIDE: <u>Smah</u> DATE: <u>10/26/92</u>	DOCUMENT/INFO REQUEST:
NAME: <u>Cathy Murphy</u>	CASEWORK:
ADDRESS: <u>15 Beaverdam Trail</u>	LEGISLATIVE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	OPINION:
CITY/ZIP: <u>Old Saybrook CT 06475</u>	
DAYPHONE (T1): _____	21000.LOOK 21152
WORKPHONE (T2): _____	K: 177429
	#50846
CONTACT BY: PHONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WALK-IN _____ TO: <u>NORWICH</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MIDDLETOWN _____ DC	
REFERRED BY: _____	
OFFICE HOURS (LOCATION): _____	
TOWN MEETING (LOCATION): _____	
SAM (LOCATION): _____	

Was watching t.v. and a campaign ad for Richard Gregory came on - a Right-to-Life candidate whose ad showed pictures of aborted fetuses. She called stations & FCC office and they told her each candidate must have equal air time. FCC said aborted fetuses were not considered obscene. Why not? Her children saw this ad & were very upset → daytime t.v. Wants laws changed so that such graphic, obscene pictures can't be used.

21000.LOOK B

21152

177421

#50885

452 Colonel Ledyard Hwy  
Ledyard, CT 06339

November 5, 1992

Representative Mary K. McGrattan  
c/o WTNH - Channel 8  
Box 1859  
New Haven, CT 06508

Dear Rep. McGrattan:

First, I would like to sincerely congratulate you on your election to the Connecticut House of Representatives. I am truly looking forward to the next four years!

Secondly, I write to you to voice my concern regarding recent anti-abortion television commercials which WTNH was forced to show. The commercials displayed allegedly aborted fetuses. Rep. McGrattan, I am currently in my sixth month of a difficult pregnancy and have spent most of my pregnancy deeply concerned about miscarriage. Also, several of my friends have had miscarriages in recent years. I know how disturbing these insensitive commercials have been to us and I ask you to please introduce and pass legislation to allow the television stations the right to refuse broadcasting such harmful material. I am NOT advocating censorship but feel it is time that all Americans realize that freedom of speech comes hand in hand with RESPONSIBILITY.

I know that you are strongly committed to families and therefore, greatly appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing and acting on this matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy M. Woodruff

MRS. ARTHUR PARFITT  
59 EASTWOOD RD.  
GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06340

21000.LOOK  
K:100983 21152  
50801

11 November 1992

The Honorable Sara Heidenson  
% WTNH-8TV  
P.O. Box 1859  
New Haven, Ct 06508

Dear Rep. Heidenson,

I have unhappily observed some very objectionable ads recently pertaining to the Pro-Life Group display of aborted fetuses.

I have a 16 year old granddaughter who was very upset in seeing the "blue babies" on the TV set of the family living room. Not only was she upset herself, but she expressed deep concern over her brothers also seeing this. The boys are aged 12, 11 and 5, and she told me she did not think these aged children should be subjected to this sort of "shock viewing" — and I thoroughly agree.

I know we live under the doctrine of freedom of speech, but there must be found a way to limit how far this can reach. Our children are being subjected to too much gruesome viewing — even in cartoons made for them I must add.

21φφφ.LOOK

21152

k:177420

#: 50803

MRS WILLIAM KIMBALL

BOX 53

WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT 06281

Nov. 6, 1992

Dear Mr. Gejdenson,

I am writing to express my  
disimage and disgust at the anti-  
abortion commercial shown on  
CT. TV during the election period  
we have just lived through. This  
should NEVER have been shown  
to the public - certainly not during  
daytime hours when young children  
could see dead fetuses. The law  
that makes this kind of <sup>political</sup> commercial  
A

21000.LOOK  
21152

NOV 30 REC'D

NOV 25 1992

681029

McCoy  
Baker Lane  
Lyme, CT. 06371  
November 22, 1992

Samuel Gejdenson  
74 West Main Street  
Norwich, CT. 06360

Dear Sir,

I am a sophomore student in the Lyme- Old Lyme High School, and hope that you might address the following issue during your coming term in office.

Recently on channel 8, an editorial was broadcasted stating that I should write to you if I agree that television stations should have the right to censor political advertising material. During the last election there were two candidates for certain offices in the state that ran most distasteful ads on channel 8. These ads showed the candidate's opinion on abortion in the most vulgar manner. I don't blame channel 8 for having to air these ads. I blame the state laws allowing them to have to be shown.

Enclosed is an editorial paper I wrote for my health class. The subject was to discuss an issue I had deep feelings about. So after having to watch the ads on channel 8 for several mornings in a row, I thought I should address my opinion in my paper.

Being a very liberal student, I am all for freedom of speech and believe that if you don't like the way something is written or expressed on television you simply turn the television off or shut the book. But some things, especially in politics, go too far. It isn't necessary to become offensive when a politician wants to make a point.

I know many people, both pro-choice and pro-life, that agree with my opinion that politicians shouldn't have the right to force indecent and unnecessarily offensive ads down television station's throat or mine.

I hope that you will be able to help the television industry to obtain rights of censorship of political ads. It is a worthy cause and necessary to maintain the humanity in political view points.

Sincerely,

*Laura Catherine McCoy*

Laura Catherine McCoy

Pro-Life  
Commercial's

Laura McCoy

October 27, 1992

Health, period E

Quarter Paper

### Politicians Need More Tact to Get My Vote

A couple of mornings ago, while eating breakfast with my father in front of the television, a horrible ad came on the screen that disturbed me deeply.

It started by having two warnings. The first was a warning from the television station saying that due to federal law, they had no control whether to censor or even show the following advertisement. The second warning was from the advertiser saying the following ad probably would not be suited for children viewers (in my mind it isn't an ad for any viewers!)

The ad then began by having voice come on and say while you read in bold print "CHOOSE A". Then you saw different little spots with adorable little giggling babies with a little baby piano music in the background. All merry and cute, right?

Then, came on "CHOOSE B," where you saw a dead baby in a bucket, then a little blackish/ greyish thing that looked like the corpse of a baby and several other distasteful shots of dead babies supposedly aborted (yet never was the viewer told that abortion was the cause of death or was there any proof). While all these disgusting pictures came on with grim music in the background, the voice of a PRO-LIFE candidate came on. The candidate would continue saying that they thought abortion was horrible and other things in that nature.

There were actually two candidates that shared the ad, but

were shown separately on different days-two days of these ridiculous spectacles! One was a big fat guy saying more or less if you didn't want to be a murderer vote for him. The other candidate was a spanish american woman who barely sounded like she could speak English. (But that doesn't matter.) No matter who the candidate was, the ad was distasteful.

Personally I am pro-choice. I believe a woman has a right to many things, but one in particular is the right to her own body. I don't believe a person has a right to tell another person what they can and can't do with their body (especially some big slob politician).

I think that a woman that considers having an abortion is a very brave person. Personally, I don't think it would be easy for myself to have an abortion. However if I knew that having that baby would result in either of us dying, being extremely ill, or worse off in the future -an abortion would be the only reasonable and logical solution.

I don't think a woman who has an abortion just decides on a whim to do it. It's a very emotional situation. But if the woman thinks it best and decides to go through with the procedure I believe she probably has made a reasonable choice and has thought it out for a considerable amount of time (weighing all the options given her).

I don't consider abortion "murder." That is just a cop-out slang word to pin blame on a woman for making a decision that was probably the most difficult and heart pulling decision she'd probably ever make. Abortion is not an easy way out. It is

probably the hardest. A woman would have to live with that decision for the rest of her life. It is not like she just figured she go drive her car to the local abortion clinic and go shopping after. Her conscience probably drills "what if's?" in her head for the rest of her life.

However if she knew that her child might die early in life or live a life of malnutrition and poverty or a life in an adoption agency for his or her childhood and adolescence in, don't you think her conscience would bother her even more? Mine would. So no matter what her decision (for whatever reason it may be) ends up being, she would live with it for the rest of her life.

Adoption naturally is an alternative, but the waiting list on adoption is long and timely (also selective). A black 5 year old girl in a wheeling-chair probably would not be the most likely "adoptee", a prospective parent would go out to look for. There are many many children from minority background, handicapped, and/ or over the age of five crowding adoption waiting lists with an unlikely chance of being adopted. Where do they go after they're 18? What do they think about their life so far? Do they feel the love that many average children in Old Lyme Connecticut feel daily?

I have only one exception to my opinion. I don't think a mother should have an abortion after her third trimester unless the mother or child are diagnosed as dying in labor or soon after. However most abortions are performed in the first trimester.

Abortion is a very emotional and personal issue. Everyone

should have the right to say if they would or wouldn't have an abortion. No one has a right to force a person to have an abortion (which no one is hopefully doing). But lately there have been people would want to say weather a woman can make up her own mind and decide whether a child will have the future she would only want a normal child to have.

No matter your religion, creed, race, personal "family values" (which all vary), we all have our own ideas. No one has a right to tell someone else what they can and can't do with their own body. If you don't want to have an abortion, don't. But don't tell some scared teenager with no money not to have an abortion. Or a single mother of four children on welfare to have the child. Or a woman with the prospect of dying in labor to have the baby and never see it grow up. Don't tell a woman with a baby inside her with the prospect of dying or being born with some horrible disease to have. Why? Just for to be able to breathe the fresh air once it is born (but have no capability of living a normal life)? Don't force a woman who just can't afford to bring up a baby, or woman who feels she won't be able to care for a baby, or any woman for whatever reason she has - what they can and can't do. Because frankly if you have the right to tell them what to do; they have the right to respond. "Let me manage my own body, and you go take care of yours."

Of course the best solution if you don't want to be a mother is not to get pregnant and be precautions.