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**MAR - 5 1993**

February 24, 1993

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, D. C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Re: Mass Media Docket #92-254

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

To Whom It May Concern,

Yesterday, around nine o'clock, my children and I had just finished watching an episode of "Quantum Leap" on TSM Channel 9 when a political advertisement for a Mr. Steven Hopkins came on. Without warning we watched in horror as pictures of aborted fetuses came on our TV screen.

I was paralyzed in shock, but my children's reaction was more visceral. Domenica (13) ran gagging and crying to the bathroom, David (11) was very angry and expressed it, Michelle (18) immediately turned the set off, and Sarah (10) was sobbing uncontrollably. It was a few minutes before everyone regained their composure.

I immediately called the station to protest the airing of such images, and they informed me that according to FCC rules, they were bound to air such "political advertisement" without being able to censor it. They recommended I call your office.

It was difficult to get the children to bed since they could not stop talking about it. David said that every time he closed his eyes, the pictures came into his head, and Domenica just sobbed. Michelle tried to calm them down, but later she told me she could not sleep. Sarah woke up three times during the course of the night which is something unusual for her.

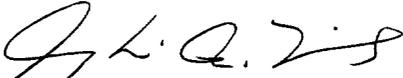
This morning, when I finally reached your office, Ms. Marsha McBride informed me that there was nothing the FCC could do since, according to the laws, such "political advertisement" had to run so long as it did not violate the narrowly defined obscenity standards. She asked that I write this letter. I am also sending a copy to Mr. Ron Coleman, U. S. Congress, since it appears that the only way to protect children from such tactics is to change the laws as they stand.

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Although we have always monitored carefully what our children watch, they are by no means overprotected or oblivious to the horrors that go on in the world. We require that they watch the news, and we wake up to the morning edition of NPR. They are often saddened and upset by reports of what goes on, such as the systematic raping in Bosnia, the famine in Ethiopia, the conditions in Armenia, gang violence in America. We have discussed abortion with our children; they know what it is, but nothing prepared them, or me, for those images.

It is beyond ludicrous that, according to existing rules, pictures of a woman's breast would be removed sooner than the pictures we saw. It strains my credibility that your agency can do nothing to stop the airing of such pictures at an hour when children are not in bed. We are firm believers of free speech, but I believe, even more firmly, in the right my children have not to be traumatized gratuitously by irresponsible politicians.

I hope this investigation can put a stop to this nonsense, and if I can do anything else to help, please let me know.

  
Annasylvia R. Mireles