



PETER A. TORIGIAN SENIOR CENTER

Peabody Council on Aging
75 R Central Street, Peabody, MA 01960
Phone: (978) 531-2254/Fax: (978) 531-7176
www.peabodycoa.org



December 10, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621(a) (1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

We are writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. We oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reached in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

Our organization, The Peabody Council on Aging, is extremely appreciative to our local Access Community Television known as PAT. The population that the Council on Aging serves are seniors, 60 years and older living in Peabody. The seniors living in Peabody represent approximately 33% of the total population, which equates to over 15,000 seniors residing in Peabody alone. The percentage of seniors living in Peabody is more than double the State percentage. The clients that we serve rely heavily on the local access for a lot of important information and enjoyment. In the past year alone, PAT helped us with a public service announcement about the new Medicare cards that were mailed to seniors homes. In the PSA, we cautioned seniors to be aware the cards are being mailed and not to give any personal information over the telephone. We had many special events, parties, variety shows and informational programs filmed so those that were unable to attend could still participate. This year we are planning on working with PAT to prepare another PSA about our new Memory Café for individuals and caregivers of people with dementia. We also have plans in the coming year to spotlight our Adult Day Health Program and work with families to film participant's life stories, especially those dealing with dementia. Many of our participants have asked for copies of special programs and PAT has always been willing to make a DVD for those individuals.

I often look back at some of the great programs that PAT produced over the years. We are especially appreciative of those shows that were filmed at our senior center. It is so nice to have

a history of our agency and even nicer to remember those who are no longer with us, but did so much to make our agency what it is today. The local Access television provides not only a history for the senior center but also provides a history for the whole community. I am reminded of a recent conversation with a volunteer at the senior center. This volunteer served in the Marine Corps during WWII and participated in a ceremony at City Hall honoring veterans. During the ceremony, his grandson now serving himself was standing by his side. He was thrilled to learn that PAT who filmed this very special event was able to provide him with a DVD of the entire program. He told me that his family did take some photos, but to be able to have the whole ceremony on film meant so much to him.

The programing offered connects us to our community and sometimes connects us to our own families. That is especially true for many seniors that are unable to attend certain events throughout the year. This benefit for seniors to be able to connect with the City as a whole is priceless. Seniors often deal with loss on a daily basis making their world even smaller, but watching local programing helps to keep them in touch with the rest of the community. Allowing seniors to continue to participate is what was intended when Congress set up the Cable Act. PEG Access does not solely benefit a local government or franchising authority: It benefits and strengthens the community as a whole.

By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities if they opt for local channels, the FNPRM diminishes the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. We ask that it not be adopted. Thank you for your time in considering our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn A. Wynn, Executive Director

Peabody Council on Aging