

The practice of selling bundle programs under different packages has been one of the main reasons of price increases seen by the consumer in the last decade. I have been the customer of COMCAST since January 2002 having a similar “choice” of programs. The price increase of the package has been more than twice the federal consumer price index in that period. Clearly is a source of non-competitive behavior from the cable provider. Although I have access to more than 300 channels, if I would have the choice I would select a much lower number of channels.

Another fundamental problem with the package wholesale approach is that the choice is not in the hands of the consumer (in this case the customer) but in the hands of the service provider. This is an obvious infringement of individual freedoms because in many cases the cable provider is the only solution for the consumer. In the case of apartment dwellings, when most of the occupants are renters, we don't have a choice of the provider. We can not install antennas, either because of specifics of the building position or because of different clauses of the lease agreement (usually you are not allow to add cables into the existing walls).

An alternative competitor is not allowed by the building owner to install additional cables and in any case the competition has the same malign policy of bundles.

In order to give more choices to the consumer and protect it from monopolistic policy imposed by the cable providers, FCC should intervene with regulatory mandate to give the option to the consumer and promote more competition in the space of cable/satellite providers