

I have recently become aware that you are considering changing the standards on what is acceptable to be seen on television as far as language and nudity are concerned. As a citizen and a person who loves television much more than they should, I would ask you to please decide against such a change.

There are many reasons that I and others like me are opposed to such a change. I fear that the addition of nudity on television would be troubling for more than one reason. Though even if nudity is being shown without the sexual act, what is sexual is a line that is very hard to draw, and very easy to cross, and may lead to the objectification of the human body in a way previously only reserved for pornography. What may be considered ???artistic expression??? to some could be considered vulgar or sexual to others. This is particularly troubling considering the strong link between pornography and violence. And if that objectification of the human body starts at a young age, who knows what could occur.

I am not a mother, but I am an aunt, and when I think of the effect something like this could have on my nieces and nephews, it gives me great concern. A child who gets hold of a remote control could be exposed to things that they are not ready for. I know from personal experience how a disturbing image can stay with you and pop up when you least suspect it. Children get into mischief, break rules, get into trouble, no matter how loving and attentive a parent is, which means at some point or another, children will be exposed. If these standards are allowed to drop, then many parents may have to decide to get rid of a television all together. And what happens to the children who have parents who are not so careful?

Allowing more profanity on television I am also strongly against. Besides being offensive to many, it does not help the writing of any given show. I think that we need to be very careful. In a quest to make things more realistic, more true to life, we may lose some of the greatest things about the art of writing and the art of television. In the last hundred years, our language has decreased. We know and use fewer and fewer words. When we are given the ability to replace language that has to be carefully constructed to convey creativity and meaning with expletives, we are in real danger of losing expression in everyday society.

I have been involved in the performing arts since I was 10 years old, I have studied music and creative writing, receiving degrees in both, and I took several classes about the film industry. I do not write from a place of ignorance. I know the temptation there is in doing something to push the envelope, to shock a reaction out of someone, to get someone to feel something so raw and visceral it makes us feel like we have achieved something. I am sure that many writers, producers and networks are asking for this. Lowering the standards may achieve that for a time, but society will become desensitized, and soon you will have to face the choice of lowering the standards again.

Besides the slippery slope that this will lead to, I truly believe that such a lowering in standards will also lower the quality of television. It gives writers an excuse to be lazy. Often, the things that keep people coming back to a show are the back and forth between characters. They love the relationships. Shows often become formulaic. That isn't a bad thing, it is the nature of the beast, but audiences keep coming back because they love the characters so much. When we take away the

pithy dialogue in favor of the more raw and realistic, when we allow shocking images to replace the artistry and tension of a well constructed relationship, we end up doing what we were trying to avoid. The characters become less human, mere caricatures of humanity, because it is so easy to simulate the unexamined life.

I would also beg you to consider that few people stop watching a show because there just isn't enough language or nudity. However, many people will stop if it has too much. I know this, I live this, and know many others who do the same. I strongly oppose a change in these standards and support the supreme court when they say that the decision is in the hands of the FCC. I hope that you will take this into consideration, thank you for your time.