

FCC and Decency Standards

It has come to my attention that the FCC is planning to relax decency standards for broadcast television and radio. This cannot be allowed to happen. The decency of programs on TV and radio has eroded to such an extent that it has become burdensome to society and to the lives of families, children, women and men. Crime, violence, indecency, vulgarity, obscenity, nudity and the objectifying of women, men and even children by ridicule and abusive language and behavior have risen in both TV and radio broadcasting. These programs demoralize the viewer, create imaginary situations without real consequences and lend license to behaviors of crime, violence, indecency, disrespect, ridicule and abuse by individuals towards others and to malicious and antisocial behavior in society. Professional studies support to this correlation, finding that those who view such television, participate in violent and inappropriate and even abusive behavior towards others. It is time for the government and institutions of our society to support what they are commissioned to promote and what will make a real difference in the lives of individuals, youth and children. This is what the majority of Americans expect, that our government, institutions, society, and our media, support and defend the wellbeing, safety and security for individuals: men, women, children and families, and most especially the innocent, weak and defenseless.

Individuals and society have been horrified by recent alarming events, children mass murdered in their school, an innocent young child stabbed to death in her own home, the abuse and rape of women, men and children, a horrible multiple rape of a young college woman, the bombing of innocent citizens at a public event. Yet, when I view television, I see programs advertised that promote and enhance the viewing of such horrific acts in TV broadcasting daily. Children and Teens are being exposed to behaviors we know are harmful to them and their development through this type of broadcasting. It is time for responsibility to be taken by those institutions which we are paying for the support of our basic security, safety and wellbeing of both individuals and society. Material that displays indecent, demoralizing, abusive and violent behavior is not a matter of personal preference; it is affecting and impacting us all in a very real way, especially the most vulnerable among us! What we allow in our public forum is important to the mental, social, intellectual and even physical health and wellbeing of individuals and the whole of society. There are real and consequences to the viewing and acceptance of such programming and behavior in our society.

I am astounded at the difficulty I experience as I find less and less programming on television that can truly educate, inform, enlighten, inspire, or entertain in an uplifting manner, while being subjected to all kinds of indecency in programming and advertising when I seek to watch entertainment, sports, the arts, informational or even educational programs. It has become the case that I find poor quality information and content in much of programming, as the same time there is lots of unfiltered inappropriate content taking up what was once truly useful TV and radio content and space. There are times I would watch an education, arts or sports program, but advertising or additional content to the program is so inappropriate or vulgar, that I leave and find another activity. There is a great deal of TV and radio I cannot watch with my family or children. In this case the value of TV and radio is

reduced and not an instrument of progress at all, but tends to reduce the progress, education, enlightenment and understanding of individuals and the society. For my own part, I find the poor content and indecency on TV and radio rising to such an extent that I am in a position of planning to end paying for or using broadcast TV and radio, finding instead other individual sources for information, enlightenment and entertainment. This situation leads one to wonder why there we pay for an institution like the FCC that shows no real interest in progress by promoting informative, uplifting, moral and educational programming. Instead of relaxing decency standards for TV and radio, these standards must be upheld, enforced and improved to reach the real goal of the FCC to participate in progress for society. The time has come to recognize the great price and irreplaceable value we are paying in human terms and lives, both as individuals and as a society, through the reduction of basic respect and social responsibility in TV and radio broadcasting, by turning a blind eye to the crime violence, indecency, nudity, vulgarity and abuse, promoted in TV and radio programming, and by not supporting the real mission of the FCC and ideals we believe in as a nation. We call upon the FCC provide the foundation of its real mission, progress for society, and to improve the standards for decency of TV and radio, and enforce the standards for decency that it has been commissioned by the citizens of the nation to uphold!!!

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