

June 22, 2026

Chair Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 26-124, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding “The View”

Dear Chairman Carr,

The undersigned organizations write in support of the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. and KTRK Television, Inc concerning *The View*. We urge the Commission to reaffirm its longstanding precedent regarding its *bona fide* news interview programming exemption and, in doing so, reinforce a principle essential to a healthy democracy: journalists and producers should decide what is newsworthy, not government regulators.

This proceeding concerns more than *The View* and more than a single television show. It highlights broader questions about how Americans access information, engage with competing viewpoints, and participate in democratic life. In an era of deep political polarization and declining trust in institutions, preserving independent channels for public debate is more important than ever. News interview programming plays a vital role in that process by connecting Americans directly with elected officials, candidates, policymakers, experts, and other influential figures.

For decades, Congress and the Commission have recognized that our democracy requires meaningful editorial independence. The numerous and varied exemptions for *bona fide* news programming already granted by the Commission over the years to programs such as *The Howard Stern Show*, *The 700 Club*, and *Governor Heineman’s Call-In Show* reflect a clear and well-reasoned understanding that government agencies should not serve as arbiters of newsworthiness or gatekeepers of political discourse.

This bedrock principle is supported by and has benefited Americans across the political spectrum, and the Commission's longstanding precedents have consistently respected this distinction. Rather than evaluating the substance of particular viewpoints or second-guessing individual editorial choices, the Commission has recognized over and over that independent news interview programming serves the public interest when it is allowed to operate free from governmental interference.

In addition, any departure from the Commission's longstanding interpretation of the *bona fide* news exemption would require revisiting decades of Commission precedent. It is the full

Commission—not the Media Bureau alone—that can change this precedent, and only through a transparent and deliberative process.

We respectfully urge the Commission to grant the Petition and reaffirm the principles of editorial independence, viewpoint neutrality, and open democratic discourse that have long guided the Commission's approach to *bona fide* news programming.

Respectfully,

American Society of Journalists and Authors
Andrew Jay Schwartzman (Individual)
Asian American Journalists Association
Center for American Progress
Freedom of the Press Foundation
Frequency Forward
Journalism & Women Symposium (JAWS)
Media Access Project
Media and Democracy Project
Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC)
National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)
National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ)
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Press Club
National Press Club Journalism Institute
NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists
Public Knowledge
SAJA