

URGENT ACTION

PROTECT FREEDOM OF PRESS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent U.S. government agency authorized and overseen by Congress to implement and enforce U.S. communication laws. Since President Trump appointed Brendan Carr as FCC Chairman, the FCC has weaponized routine procedures—such as threatening license revocation and launching investigations—against independent media outlets that President Trump has repeatedly attacked in public to discredit and silence. The FCC has used its regulatory power to undermine freedom of the press. Call on the FCC to maintain its independence and respect and protect the human right to freedom of expression.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 37.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Chairman Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554, USA
Email/website: brendan.carr@fcc.gov / www.fcc.gov

To Chairman Carr,

The FCC has a responsibility to respect and protect the human right to freedom of expression, including freedom of the press. However, the FCC has taken actions that appear to be politically motivated to target certain media organizations the President has attacked, undermining free press.

In early 2025, the FCC reopened a dismissed complaint against the outlet, CBS News, for allegations regarding its editing choices of its interview with former Vice President, and then-presidential candidate, Kamala Harris. In this case, President Trump accused CBS of election interference.

Subsequently, the FCC launched an investigation into independent public media stations, National Public Radio (“NPR”) and Public Broadcasting Service (“PBS”), for allegedly violating their noncommercial terms. President Trump has called for NPR to be defunded.

Lastly, the FCC's demand that private media organizations eliminate their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs for the retention and approval of licenses and/or business deals, sets a dangerous precedent where the FCC leverages licensing and other decisions to interfere in independent media companies' operations, impacting their right to freedom of expression.

These actions reflect a dangerous misuse of government authority to intimidate media outlets and risk creating a chilling effect on all independent media. We call on the FCC to reaffirm its commitment to independence and service to the public by:

- Protecting and respecting the human right to freedom of expression, including free press and closing politically motivated investigations that weaponize FCC authority.
- Conducting investigations with transparency, impartiality, and independence.
- Ending interference with the independence of media outlets and their internal DEI programs

Sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Federal Communications Commission (“[FCC](#)”) is meant to be a regulatory, independent agency separate from the executive’s agenda. Instead, it appears to be using its regulatory power invested by Congress to enact a specific political agenda against media outlets and journalists, particularly those that President Trump has publicly criticized and targeted.

On February 18, 2025, President Trump [issued](#) Executive Order 14215, which aims at making all agencies, including independent regulatory agencies that by law are accountable to Congress, like the FCC, to be instead accountable to the president. The following is a list of examples, demonstrating a concerning and growing trend:

On January 21, 2025, Chairman Carr [announced](#) the termination of DEI initiatives within the FCC following Trump’s executive orders terminating all DEI efforts in the federal government.

On January 22, 2025, the FCC re-opened a complaint and investigation into CBS for supposed “news distortion” regarding a Kamala Harris interview after the complaint had recently been dismissed on January 16, 2025 (four days prior to President Trump’s inauguration). Trump claimed that CBS engaged in “unlawful acts of election and voter interference.”

On January 29, 2025, Chairman Carr [announced](#) an investigation into National Public Radio (“NPR”) and Public Broadcasting Service (“PBS”) for allegedly violating commercial laws as non-commercial educational broadcast stations. The previous year, President Trump called NPR a “[total scam](#)” to be de-funded by the government. NPR and PBS receive funding appropriation through Congress since they provide critical resources for communicating with marginalized and rural communities. As such, they are prohibited from airing advertisements.

On February 11, 2025, Chairman Carr sought to enforce the termination of DEI initiatives upon private entities as a form of FCC regulation. Chairman Carr opened an investigation into two big telecommunication companies, Comcast and NBC Universal, accusing them of violating FCC and civil rights laws. On February 27, 2025 Chairman Carr [announced](#) the FCC would be investigating Verizon for its hiring practices related to DEI.

These incidents demonstrate concerning examples of the U.S. government’s weaponization of independent agencies to suppress and control the media.

States have a duty to protect journalists and not to persecute them in an effort to control the free flow of information. A free media is not only beneficial, but necessary in a free society. By exposing human rights abuses and uplifting the voices of marginalized communities, the media can at its best encourage the proper application of justice and stimulate debates that can defuse situations that might otherwise lead to conflict. The FCC must urgently maintain its independence from the administration to ensure the continued freedom of the press in the U.S.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 14, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Media Organizations in the USA (they/them)