

Statement of Support for ABC's Defense of Press Freedom

Last fall, we called on Disney and ABC News to stand up for its journalists, and to resist government pressure to silence voices critical of the Trump administration. This came after Disney pulled talk show host Jimmy Kimmel off the air briefly under threats from the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Today, we write to commend Disney and ABC for the strong stand they are now taking in support of freedom of speech.

ABC rightfully argues that the Trump administration is violating its free speech rights and creating a “chilling effect” on First Amendment-protected speech through its regulatory action targeting *The View*. In its filing with the FCC, ABC argues the FCC has questioned talk shows critical of the president but not those conservative radio talk shows that have featured content supportive of the administration - making plain that this is political retaliation, not regulatory enforcement

As ABC's filing notes, with the 2026 midterm elections approaching, Americans need *more* access to political news, not less.

A free press is not a partisan issue — it is the foundation of our democracy. We stand with ABC in this fight and call on the FCC to drop its politically motivated inquiry.

(Signatories below)

Susan Aasen	Mark Brender	Paul Colten
Lynne Adrine	Frances Bufalino	Merrilee Cox
Abigail K Alcott	Chris Bury	Ted David
Kent Alley	Steve Cain	Mitch Davis
Doug Allmond	Ian Cameron	Greg Dobbs
John Arrowsmith	Susan Caraher	Peter Doherty
Thalia Assuras	Melinda Carlson	Sam Donaldson
Jane Aylor	Barbara Cerame	Dennis Dunlavey
John Bauer	Ronald Claiborne	Todd Easton
Ann Benjamin	Jack Cloherty	Ed Eaves
Tom Bettag	Lisa Cohen	Glenn Elvington

Kate Felsen	Sally Kaplan	Don Riggs
Mary Claude Foster	Amy Katz	Rhonda Roberts
Margee Finn Frame	Giitka Kaul	Rick Roller
Barry Freeman	Henry Kavett	Clayton Sandell
Justin Friedland	Paris M. Keena	Howard Schoenholtz
Fergal Gallagher	David Kerley	Stu Schutzman
Tom Gauger	Shelley Kilburn	Richard Sergay
Art Gauthier	Anita Krichmar	David Shapinsky
David Glodt	Jonathan Larsen	Larry Shaw
Amy Goldberg	Jessica B. Levin	Thomas Shine
Marilyn Heck	Chuck Lustig	Rachel Silverman
Lyn Henderson	Rusty Lutz	Mike Silverstein
Greg Hernandez	Thomas Marcyes	Pete Simmons
Miriam Hernandez	Mark Matthews	Beth Simons
Jim Hickey	Lee McEachern	Jim Slade
Bob Hoenig	Elliot Mendelson	Stephanie Z. Smith
Elaine Hogue	Susan Mercandetti	Adam Smook
Dean Hovell	Philip Mishoe	Scott Snyder
Dick Hubert	Judy Muller	Elizabeth Sovern
Laura Stroube Hughes	Sharon Newman	Andrew Springer
Bob Hurley	Richard O'Regan	Marianne Keeley Stack
Peter Imber	Phil Oakley	Lisa Stark
Kayce Freed Jennings	Douglas Obert	Betsy Stark
Fletcher Johnson	Donny Perhala	Deborah Talley
Jackie Judd	Dennis Powell	Mardi Tatton
Lee Kamlet	Barbara Rick	Georgeanne Thanos

William Wells

Betsy West

Meredith Wheeler

Douglas White

Robin Wiener

Susan Wittan

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