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July 6, 2026

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Public Comment in Response to MB Docket No. 26-124, Concerning *The View*

To the Members of the Federal Communications Commission:

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) submits these comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) request for public comment on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling (the Petition) concerning *The View*'s "bona fide news" exemption that was first granted over two decades ago.¹

For over fifty years, NWLC has fought for gender justice—in the courts, in public policy, and in our society—working across issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. This work is dependent on the ability of women to engage fully in our democracy. Any efforts to block access to the news and broad political and cultural views are direct attacks on the ability of women, and all people, to do just that.

Recognizing this, we urge the FCC to uphold its longstanding bona fide news programming practices and affirm it will maintain *The View*'s similarly longstanding exemption.

If the FCC were to rescind *The View*'s bona fide exception, it would be censoring the speech of women in media. Reflecting the public's high level of trust in *The View*'s discourse and journalistic integrity, the production is the number one watched daytime television program for the 9th consecutive season and draws on average 2.78 million daily viewers. Further, the program—and its all-women hosts—is especially popular with women viewers.²

The FCC's efforts to foster confusion around the standards for bona fide news and to remove *The View*'s exemption would have a chilling effect on news reporting. For example, the loss of *The View*'s exception would result in less access to varied opinions in daytime news and much less

¹ Letter from Robert Baker, Chief, Office of Political Programming, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau, FCC, to ABC, Inc. (Mar. 1, 2002) ("2002 Declaratory Ruling").

² Loree Seitz, "*The View*" Closes Out Q1 with Strongest Viewership in 5 Years, *The Wrap* (April 3, 2026), <https://www.thewrap.com/creative-content/tv-shows/the-view-first-quarter-2026-ratings-viewership/>.

access to interviews with national and global thought leaders and politicians. *The View* hosts numerous candidates during every presidential election cycle, and the show is often able to secure interviews with newsworthy figures that may be less likely to appear on other news shows.³ Moreover, *The View* has a significant following among people that may not engage with political channels, which enables it to reach audiences that may not already be following political developments.⁴ The fact that America is in the midst of the 2026 election cycle underscores the importance of more access to varied and uncensored information.

Finally, it is important to note the context of the unprecedented nature of the FCC's demand that the Petition be filed at all.⁵ That this demand comes only after the appearance on the program of Texas State Rep. James Talarico, currently a Senate candidate for Texas, belies the idea that this probe is apolitical.⁶ The FCC's targeting of *The View*—and thus the show's women hosts and viewership—is occurring alongside President Trump's well-documented verbal attacks on and disparaging of women reporters.⁷

Women deserve access to the news they want to see and the ability to report on that news without fear of having their choice of news censored or voices silenced. It is critical that the FCC act to uphold the Constitution and protect free speech for all people.

Should you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at agill@nwlc.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Alison Gill
Senior Director of Nominations & Democracy
National Women's Law Center

³ Vice President JD Vance, who recently appeared on *The View*, noted that “Joy Behar is way tougher than the Iranians.” Emlyn Travis, *The View Host Joy Behar Reacts to JD Vance Saying She Is ‘Way Tougher Than the Iranians,’* Entertainment Weekly (June 19, 2026), <https://ew.com/jd-vance-says-view-host-joy-behar-is-tougher-than-iranians-12002100>.

⁴ Amanda FitzSimons, *How “The View” Became the Most Important Political TV Show in America*, New York Times (May 22, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/magazine/the-view-politics-tv.html>.

⁵ *KTRK Television, Inc. and American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Under Section 315(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended*, (May 7, 2026), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10522087167981/1>.

⁶ Steven Ardary, *FCC Opening Probe Into ‘The View’ After Appearance by Talarico*, Fox 7 Austin (Feb. 7, 2026), <https://www.fox7austin.com/news/fcc-opening-probe-the-view-after-appearance-talarico>.

⁷ Tamara Keith, *Trump's Attacks on the Press Often Focus on Women Reporters Who Challenge Him*, NPR (June 4, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/06/04/nx-s1-5846590/trumps-attacks-on-the-press-often-focus-on-women-reporters-who-challenge-him>.