

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to convey our strong opposition to your budget proposal, which eliminates funding for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB) for Fiscal Year 2018. Federal funding for the CPB, which historically receives broad public support, helps provide high-quality, informative, and educational programming produced by locally-owned and operated public television and radio stations reaching virtually every household in our country. Any funding cuts to the CPB could create a content deficit where the public no longer has access to enriching educational, civic, and entertainment shows for all Americans, regardless of ethnic, racial or socio-economic background.

CPB creates a content oasis where children across the country can access educational materials. PBS KIDS and the Ready To Learn Initiative creates math and literacy-based programming designed to help prepare kids for academic success.¹ With more than half of our nation's three and four-year-olds not attending preschool,² PBS KIDS programs like Super Why, Thomas and Friends, Bob the Builder, and Calliou help to advance the Ready To Learn Initiative by serving as a key source of educational media, as PBS stations reach more children between two and five-years-old than any other children's TV network.³ CPB also reinforce classroom lessons with the PBS LearningMedia tool, which is a free digital learning service that allows teachers and parents to access and incorporate short educational videos into their curriculums.⁴ Approximately 65% of all public schools use PBS LearningMedia.⁵

CPB provides independent sources of news for nearly all Americans, from Boston to the Berkshires and beyond. CPB supports nearly 1,500 locally owned and operated public television and public radio stations across the country, creating a vibrant media ecosystem where local journalism and media can thrive.⁶ With its near universal footprint, CPB provides virtually all Americans with access to this educational content and top-caliber local, regional, and national news. Approximately 99% of all Americans can enjoy this public media, regardless of how

¹ "Public Media's Commitment to Early Learning." Ready to Learn. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Mar. 2017. <<http://pbskids.org/readytolearn/commitment.html>>.

² "The 2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book." The Annie E. Casey Foundation. N.p., 21 June 2016. Web. 15 Mar. 2017. <<http://www.aecf.org/resources/the-2016-kids-count-data-book/>>.

³ "Overview." PBS. N.p., Feb. 2017. Web. 15 Mar. 2017. <<http://www.pbs.org/about/about-pbs/overview/>>.

⁴ "PBS LearningMedia." N.p., 2017. Web. 15 Mar. 2017. <<https://whut.pbslearningmedia.org/>>.

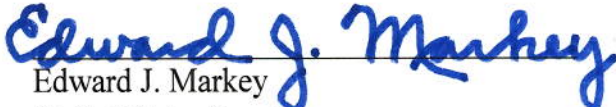
⁵ Provided by WGBH

⁶ "Station Finder." Corporation for Public Broadcasting. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Mar. 2017. <<http://www.cpb.org/cpb-station-finder>>.

much money they earn or where they live.⁷

We strongly support the CPB and will oppose any attempt to decrease funding for this essential source of news, educational content, and entertainment. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

⁷ "Appropriation Request and Justification FY2017 and FY2019." Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 9 Feb. 2016. Web. 15 Mar. 2017. <<http://www.cpb.org/files/appropriation/justification-FY17-and-FY19.pdf>>.