



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

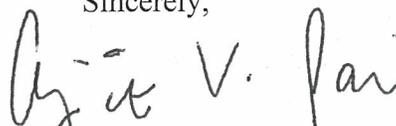
Thank you for your letter regarding children's television programming. I share your goal of ensuring that the children of all Americans have access to quality educational and informational content while ensuring that over-the-air broadcasting remains a free, vital service for low-income Americans who cannot afford other alternatives. And to ensure that the broadcast industry performing this public service continues to thrive, we must ensure that our rules keep pace with the times.

As you know, the Commission has been reviewing how to modernize its media regulations, including our rules regarding children's television, for more than a year. So when commenters highlighted the negative impact our rules are having on children whose parents cannot afford other alternatives, I took notice. For example, current rules discourage broadcasters from airing children's educational programs that are less than 30 minutes long—even though short-form programs like *Schoolhouse Rock!* taught millions of children how a bill becomes a law. And current rules discourage broadcasters from airing children's educational specials—like the *ABC Afterschool Specials*, which dealt with important issues facing young people like substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, and illiteracy. I don't believe that we should be discouraging broadcasters from offering our children the best educational content.

That's why I asked Commissioner O'Rielly to head up the Commission's efforts to review the Commission's broadcast rules regarding children's television. And I am pleased that after more than a year of feedback on the effects of our media regulations, the Commission moved forward under his leadership with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking—an opportunity for the public to examine particular proposals for how to modernize our children's television rules and tell us what works, what doesn't, and what could be improved.

I appreciate your interest in ensuring high-quality content for children. I look forward to sharing your concerns with Commissioner O'Rielly as we work to reexamine the existing rules. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

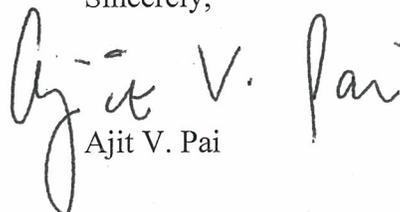
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

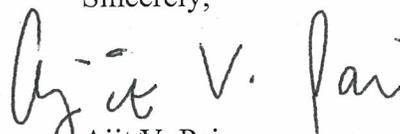
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding children's television programming. I share your goal of ensuring that the children of all Americans have access to quality educational and informational content while ensuring that over-the-air broadcasting remains a free, vital service for low-income Americans who cannot afford other alternatives. And to ensure that the broadcast industry performing this public service continues to thrive, we must ensure that our rules keep pace with the times.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding children's television programming. I share your goal of ensuring that the children of all Americans have access to quality educational and informational content while ensuring that over-the-air broadcasting remains a free, vital service for low-income Americans who cannot afford other alternatives. And to ensure that the broadcast industry performing this public service continues to thrive, we must ensure that our rules keep pace with the times.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding children's television programming. I share your goal of ensuring that the children of all Americans have access to quality educational and informational content while ensuring that over-the-air broadcasting remains a free, vital service for low-income Americans who cannot afford other alternatives. And to ensure that the broadcast industry performing this public service continues to thrive, we must ensure that our rules keep pace with the times.

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