

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2021

Jessica Rosenworcel
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

Each year, many Americans gather in front of their televisions to watch the Grammy Awards. Adults and children alike tune into this awards program to recognize the past year's top musical artists and watch them perform their musical acts. During this year's network broadcast, viewers were unwilling subjected to an obscene and indecent performance led by Cardi B.

According to news reports in April 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) received over 1,000 viewer complaints regarding this performance¹. Complaints focused on the overly sexualized nature of the broadcasted performance, likening it to late night cable television and pornography. Some viewers went on to say that they felt "violated" during the performance. Other viewers were worried that this display of sexual acts only furthers the objectification of women and that this is particularly damaging to impressionable children who may have unexpectedly been subject to the performance.

Weeks later, our constituents are still concerned about the performance broadcasted on their television sets on March 14. American families should be assured that they can tune into primetime events without having to subject their young children to inappropriate adult content. The FCC has a responsibility to ensure that these kinds of television broadcast events are kept clear of obscene, indecent, and profane content. According to the FCC's website, obscene and indecent content are defined as:

Obscene content does not have protection by the First Amendment. For content to be ruled obscene, it must meet a three-pronged test established by the Supreme Court: It must appeal to an average person's prurient interest; depict or describe sexual conduct in a "patently offensive" way; and, taken as a whole, lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

Indecent content portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive but does not meet the three-prong test for obscenity.²

¹ Johnson, A. S. (2021, April 16). *The FCC received more than 1,000 complaints about Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion's "WAP" performance at the*. Business Insider. <https://www.businessinsider.in/entertainment/news/the-fcc-received-more-than-1000-complaints-about-cardi-b-and-megan-thee-stallions-wap-performance-at-the-grammys/articleshow/82093465.cms>

² *Obscene, Indecent and Profane Broadcasts*. (2021, January 13). Federal Communications Commission. <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/obscene-indecnt-and-profane-broadcasts>

The website goes on to say that broadcasting obscene content “is prohibited by law at all times of the day”² and that indecent content is “prohibited on broadcast TV and radio between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when there is a reasonable risk that children may be in the audience”.²

Cardi B has said that she will not subject her own daughter to her music.³ So, it is unclear to us why the FCC allowed this provocative performance to be put on display for other children around the country. Not only has the FCC not lived up to moral standards, but they aren’t even living up to their own standards. Most people would agree that we have had a decline in morality in this country over the past 30 years, and the allowance of this performance to be broadcast is a prime example.

We would like a reply as to whether FCC standards will be upheld in the future, or if your policy will be to continue to allow these types of performances on the airwaves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



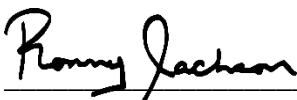
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



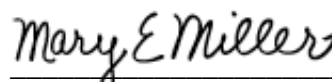
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

³ Kibbe, K. (2021, January 6). *Cardi B Doesn't Let Her Daughter Listen to "WAP," and She Has a Very Reasonable Explanation*. InsideHook. https://www.insidehook.com/daily_brief/music/cardi-b-doesnt-let-her-daughter-listen-to-wap



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Troy Nehls
Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress

/s/

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

/s/

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

/s/

Rick Allen
Member of Congress

/s/

Jim Baird
Member of Congress

/s/

Pat Fallon
Member of Congress