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For Immediate Release

**COMMISSIONER GOMEZ ON EFFORTS TO DEFUND,
INTIMIDATE, AND SILENCE PUBLIC MEDIA**

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2025 — FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez issued the following statement after the Senate voted to approve legislation to defund public media, which could lead to the closure of public broadcast stations across the country:

“This action is a key step in a coordinated campaign to silence public media, and the latest attempt by this Administration to censor and control speech. We've yet to see any effort to probe, defund, or threaten news outlets that support the government's views, and there's a reason for that. This has never been about saving money. It's about silencing those who report the news accurately, without fear or favor.

“The true cost of this one-sided attack on free speech will be felt most by small and rural communities across the country. Much like the disappearance of local newspapers, cutting off support for public stations could create a new kind of ‘news desert.’ In many hard-to-reach areas, these stations may be the only source for the public to receive emergency alerts, traffic updates, and information about local events and ways to stay engaged in their own neighborhoods. Defunding them strips away these essential services and further isolates the very communities these stations seek to serve.

“The FCC is playing a dangerous game with its own baseless attacks on public broadcast stations. Its role should be to protect and expand the public's access to timely, accurate news that is free from political interference. I will continue fighting this FCC's politically motivated efforts to investigate and harass these stations.”

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