



from the Office of Commissioner Anna M. Gomez

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**GOMEZ ON LATEST FCC EFFORT TO PRESSURE
BROADCASTERS AND CHILL SPEECH**

WASHINGTON—FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez issued the following statement after the FCC released a [misleading announcement](#) suggesting that certain late-night and daytime programs may no longer qualify for the long-standing “bona fide news interview” exemption under the Commission’s political broadcasting rules:

“Nothing has fundamentally changed with respect to our political broadcasting rules. The FCC has not adopted any new regulation, interpretation, or Commission-level policy altering the long-standing news exemption or equal time framework. For decades, the Commission has recognized that bona fide news interviews, late-night programs, and daytime news shows are entitled to editorial discretion based on newsworthiness, not political favoritism. That principle has not been repealed, revised, or voted on by the Commission. This announcement therefore does not change the law, but it does represent an escalation in this FCC’s ongoing campaign to censor and control speech.

“The First Amendment does not yield to government intimidation. Broadcasters should not feel pressured to water down, sanitize, or avoid critical coverage out of fear of regulatory retaliation. Broadcast stations have a constitutional right to carry newsworthy content, even when that content is critical of those in power. That does not change today, it will not change tomorrow, and it will not change simply because of this Administration’s desire to silence its critics.”

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).