



from the Office of Commissioner Anna M. Gomez

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**For Immediate Release**

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**GOMEZ CONDEMNS FCC INTIMIDATION CAMPAIGN THAT  
FORCED INTERVIEW OFF THE AIR**

WASHINGTON—FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez issued the following statement after Jimmy Kimmel announced that his interview with a Senate candidate will not air on ABC due to the FCC’s pressure campaign against ABC:

“Jimmy Kimmel’s decision to keep his interview with a Senate candidate off the air shows just how far this Administration’s campaign of censorship and control has gone. This is now the [second time](#) in a matter of months that a late-night host has disclosed they had to bury an interview because of FCC intimidation, and there is no way to know how many other editorial decisions across the country have quietly been shaped by this same pressure. No host, local affiliate, or network should have to weigh federal retaliation before booking a guest for a newsworthy interview. Any attempt to pressure broadcasters into self-censorship undermines both press freedom and the public’s right to hear from candidates in their communities seeking public office.

“The FCC has no lawful authority to threaten broadcast licenses over guest bookings or editorial decisions. Unlike other broadcasters who have quietly capitulated, Disney’s ABC has continued to fight this unlawful coercion in court, and episodes like this one only strengthen that case. Ultimately, this decision reflects the real challenges placed on affiliates who have no part in this fight. The burden should never fall on local stations to defend themselves from a federal agency that is being weaponized against speech it doesn’t like. I urge broadcasters everywhere to keep resisting this pressure, and I hope courts will soon make clear that the FCC has no place dictating editorial choices or what viewers are allowed to see.”

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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).*