



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 19th, 2025

Perry A. Sook
Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.
545 East John Carpenter Freeway
Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Michael Biard
President/Chief Operating Officer
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.
545 East John Carpenter Freeway
Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Andy Alford
President, Broadcasting
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.
545 East John Carpenter Freeway
Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Dear Mr. Sook, Mr. Biard, and Mr. Alford:

I write to you today with urgent concerns about Nexstar Media Group's alarming announcement that owned and partner stations planned to preempt "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and replace the show with other programming in ABC affiliated markets because his broadcast platform was "not in the public interest." I am also deeply alarmed by the ABC Television Network decision to indefinitely pull Jimmy Kimmel and his show from the airwaves. I am even more concerned by the fact that this decision came after FCC Chair Brendan Carr suggested that the FCC might revoke ABC affiliate licenses to force Disney to punish Kimmel for comments he made on his show.¹

Using the power of the United States Government to silence those who speak their mind not only tramples on the United States Constitution, it represents an unprecedented assault on freedom of expression. While private companies like ABC and Disney are not necessarily prohibited from firing someone for protected speech, the federal government is—and coercing a private company to do so is extraordinarily suspect.

In *Bradenburg v. Ohio*, the Supreme Court stated, "...that the government cannot forbid this type of speech unless it is both directed to inciting such action and is likely to actually incite it."² Jimmy

¹ Alex Leeds Matthews and Brian Stelter, "Here's the timeline of Jimmy Kimmel's suspension," Sept. 18, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/18/business/timeline-jimmy-kimmel-suspension-vis>.

² *Bradenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969).

Kimmel did not issue a threat or express an intention to commit a violent act. He simply shared his opinion.

Given Nexstar's decision to punish Kimmel for his speech— and impact this will have on local affiliates in my Congressional District—I feel compelled to reassess whether this company's values are aligned with my own. As a result, I would like answers to the following questions:

1. Did Nexstar make the decision to preempt “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” or were you instructed to do so by ABC or Disney?
2. Is Nexstar preempting “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” because the show has been pulled from ABC or because Nexstar “objects to [the host's] comments on killing Charlie Kirk”?
3. Jimmy Kimmel has made other controversial comments in the past—what is it about these comments specifically that has led Nexstar to preempt his show? Who made that decision and what was their rationale for doing so?
4. Considering rampant continued speculation around the motives of Charlie Kirk's alleged assassin, how do you defend that Kimmel's comments don't “reflect the spectrum of opinions, views, or values of the local communities” you serve?
5. Is it the position of Nexstar that any content that criticizes Mr. Kirk is no longer welcome on owned and partner television stations, including criticism from Members of Congress who may want to express disagreement with his views moving forward?
6. Will you preempt programming featuring Vice President JD Vance or Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, who have both speculated publicly that the entire Democratic Party is a “domestic extremist organization” and a “terrorist network?”
7. Will Nexstar remove other content from its owned and partner television stations affiliated with ABC that criticizes President Donald Trump or the Trump Administration?
8. Nexstar states one of its core principles as follows: “We promote open communication that fosters respect, innovation, and creativity.” How does Nexstar plan to adhere to this principle moving forward?

Given the urgent nature of these issues and the constitutional questions at stake, please respond to these questions by Friday, October 3rd.

Sincerely,


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress