



July 15, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

As Chairs of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), we write to express our grave concerns about the White House rescissions package that was transmitted to Congress on June 3, 2025, and passed by the House of Representatives on June 12, 2025. We specifically urge you to oppose the proposed rescission of already appropriated funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

If enacted, the proposal to eliminate all federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) would gut essential services and put public safety, education, and local cultural storytelling at immediate risk, especially in rural and underserved communities.

The federal government is the largest single funding source for public television and radio stations. This funding relationship, built over decades with bipartisan support, plays a particularly vital role in smaller, more rural, and isolated communities with limited access to local news and emergency alerts. For example, Senator Mike Rounds has warned that Native American radio stations in South Dakota “will not continue to exist” if their funding is cut without replacement.¹

CPB’s elimination would decimate public media infrastructure, as the vast majority of its funding goes directly to local stations, many of which rely on it for over half their operating budgets. In rural and tribal areas, this would shut down stations that serve as lifelines for public safety, education, and culturally relevant programming. Eighty percent of Native American and Alaska Native communities are rural or remote, and public television is often the only station reaching them consistently.

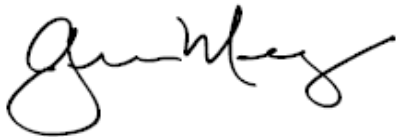
¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Trump Rescission Proposal Builds on Illegal Impoundments, Would Undermine Public Media,” May 2024. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/trump-rescission-proposal-builds-on-illegal-impoundments-would-undermine>.

Public media remains one of the few consistent federal investments in culturally responsive education. Nearly 40 percent of Black preschool-aged children are not enrolled in formal early education, and for many, PBS, which is powered by CPB funding, is their only free early-learning resource. CPB also funds independent filmmakers and diverse storytellers whose work, like *Asian Americans*, *Pacific Heartbeat*, or *VOCES*, reaches millions and builds cultural understanding across communities.

At a time when misinformation and division are on the rise, public media remains one of the most trusted institutions in America. Slashing its funding won't save taxpayer dollars as promised; it will cost Americans access to education, safety, and connection.

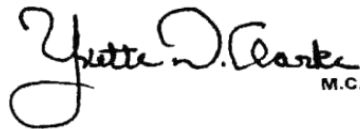
We urge you to reject this shortsighted and dangerous proposal and protect public media for the communities who depend on it most.

Sincerely,



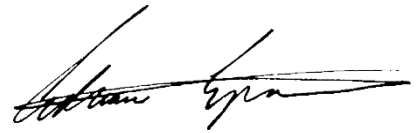
Grace Meng

Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific
American Caucus



Yvette Clarke

Chair
Congressional Black Caucus



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Congressional Hispanic Caucus