

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 159

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the June 2, 2003, ruling of the Federal Communications Commission weakening the Nation's media ownership rules is not in the public interest and should be rescinded.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2003

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, Mr. REED, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the June 2, 2003, ruling of the Federal Communications Commission weakening the Nation's media ownership rules is not in the public interest and should be rescinded.

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission moved with unreasonable haste in considering the issue of media concentration and did not previously disclose the proposed ownership rule the Commission implemented in its June 2, 2003, ruling on media ownership rules;

Whereas the Commission did not provide an opportunity for the public to review, debate, and comment on the proposed changes prior to the ruling;

Whereas it would have been appropriate for the Commission to include such public review, debate, and comment on the specific provisions of its proposal prior to issuing a ruling with such broad implications;

Whereas there is no indication that the Commission has adequately addressed the impact of the proposed ownership rule changes on industry market share and consumer prices;

Whereas greater media concentration could threaten the diversity of and extent of local content in broadcast programming and news, and has the potential to inhibit or remove local control over such programming;

Whereas, despite the rapid growth of vital Spanish-language media outlets in the past several years, there is no indication that the Commission considered treating Spanish-language media separately for purposes of its broadcast media ownership restrictions, thereby failing to extend to Spanish speakers the same protections afforded members of the English-speaking broadcast community; and

Whereas it is in the public interest to maintain local control and promote diversity in television programming, which the previous ownership rules had been designed to ensure: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
- 2 June 2, 2003, ruling of the Federal Communications Com-
- 3 mission weakening the Nation's media ownership rules is
- 4 not in the public interest and should be rescinded.

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