

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Marjorie Taylor Greene
Chairwoman, House Subcommittee on Delivering On Government Efficiency
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Delivering On Government Efficiency
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Greene, Ranking Member Stansbury, and Members of the Subcommittee:

KERA is an independently owned, FCC-licensed nonprofit with a 65-year history of delivering local news and trusted information, educational services, cultural programming, and public safety alerts to 20 counties in North Texas.

I urge you to understand and appreciate the vital role of our local public radio and television stations, and what will happen to the residents of North Texas and people across the country if the essential service that KERA and other public media stations provide is lost. Public media reaches 99% of the American population with free over-the-air and online programming and connects communities with national, state, and local news and information, as well as emergency alerts and warnings.

KERA serves 4.5 million people a month across our multiple stations and platforms, including:

- KERA TV: Serves more than 500,000 children a month through its educational children's television programming – this means KERA reaches more children than any other educational nonprofit, outside of the school districts themselves.
- KERA News: Has journalists based in Tarrant, Dallas, Denton and Collin Counties to provide a breadth of coverage from across the metroplex.
- KXT: Showcases legendary, new and local artists – the only North Texas radio station that plays the music of local artists every hour.
- WRR: Presents classical music and highlights North Texas artists and performing arts groups as our region's only classical music station.

Through our many educational resources and services, KERA keeps our communities informed, connected and inspired. In fact, in 2024 alone, KERA provided:

- Free events for kids and families, focused family engagement in early childhood education and S.T.E.A.M. activities.
- A children's podcast that helps children learn about and understand emotions.
- In-depth reporting on important topics ranging from local government to natural disasters in our area.
- Live statewide newscasts and content shared across more than a dozen Texas stations through a statewide collaboration, The Texas Newsroom, led by KERA.
- Support for hundreds of local artists and arts organizations through a cultural events calendar, profiles and unique in-person experiences.

Additionally, KERA:

- Produces *Think* with Krys Boyd, an in-depth conversation program carried by more than 200 stations across the country.
- Presents free concerts featuring and elevating local musicians.
- Is supported by more than 75,000 members across North Texas.

The loss of federal funding would have a significant impact on KERA's ability to provide these important local services and content for our North Texas community. It would also have a detrimental impact on our national-local partnership with PBS and NPR, which we rely on for everything from content distribution, technology, program and music licensing, and so much more.

- NPR and PBS serve as the backbone of public media's emergency alert system and support local stations in their delivery of life-saving alerts and information.
- We depend on our national partners for content distribution and interconnection, including cloud-based, terrestrial broadband and satellite distribution.
- We receive thousands of hours of PBS and NPR programming with broadcast and streaming rights – from educational children's shows and documentaries to music and cultural programming.
- PBS Kids is consistently the top-ranked educational media brand – providing trusted resources to help children succeed in school and in life. KERA connects local educators, parents and students to free, curriculum-based, online resources managed by PBS LearningMedia – a service no other organization provides.

These are only a few examples of how our effective and efficient national-local partnership with PBS and NPR is essential to the existence of the public broadcasting system and to leveraging economies of scale. The loss of federal funding would be devastating, and force KERA and individual stations to try and replicate these and many other services.

I thank the Congress for supporting deeply-rooted, community-based local public broadcasting institutions like KERA, which in partnership with PBS and NPR, provide crucial educational services, news and information designed to serve the public interest, and enriching arts, music and cultural programming.

I appreciate your consideration and respectfully ask that you include this letter in the official hearing record.

Best regards,

Nico Leone
President & CEO, KERA