

**JOY VILLA**  
**STATEMENT TO HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
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Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of This Committee: Thank you for inviting me to speak on **“diversity and the representation of people of color in the media.”**

I’ve lived with and dealt with this topic for my entire life — I’ve never taken a day off from being a woman of color. I’m glad to be able to share my unique perspectives with you. **My name is Joy Villa. I’m a #1 Billboard artist, actress, and conservative activist.** I’m the author of “Kickass Conservative!” which recently became an Amazon bestseller. I’ve spoken at hundreds of venues across our country, I’ve toured over 35 countries and I support President Donald J. Trump and the sovereignty of the American people.

I’m mixed race. I’m Black and Choctaw Native-American on my mother’s side. I’m Italian and Argentinian on my father’s side.

I’m extremely proud of my diverse background — I believe in diversity. Our diversity is one of the great strengths of America. Many people in Hollywood and in the media proudly promote diversity of race, background, heritage, sexuality, religion and culture, as they should. Our differences make us stronger overall.

But the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences wants to **MANDATE** diversity in the Oscars nomination process — which is wrong. That’s **forcing** nationality and background into hiring decisions **OVER** someone’s ability and talent for the job at hand.

**Until I came out as a Trump supporter by wearing a fabulous Make America Great Again dress to the Grammys 4 years ago,** I had never been blacklisted—

Yet as soon as I began sharing my conservative beliefs and my support for President Trump, I noticed a social chill.

Back in 2015, talk show host Jimmy Kimmel talked favorably with Kelly Osbourne about one of my red-carpet gowns. This was **before** I was conservative.

Ava DuVernay, the celebrated black filmmaker who said she wants to use more black actresses in her films and have more diversity, blocked me on Twitter.

I was **disinvited** to casting round tables. I was blacklisted from industry events. I was not welcome on most talk shows. I was not included in pop-culture magazines or publications — unless as the butt of jokes. Rolling Stone Magazine told my publicist that they would not write about me **because of my politics.**

**One casting director called me “that Trump bitch”. I’ve been called a race traitor, an Uncle Tom, Aunt Jemima, house nigger, slave, been told to go back to Africa, told to straighten my nappy hair, puta negra, that I should be deported, and even worse I’ve had threats against my life and my family’s lives.**

These remarks come only from the so-called “tolerant left” who preach that they want diversity.

**Yes,** I was “cancelled.”

To be clear, this didn’t happen because I’m Black. Or because I’m Latina. Or because I’m a woman.

**It happened because I’m openly POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE.**

I’m going to be blunt: what happened to me is **discrimination against my political beliefs**. They don’t like pro-Trumpers. “pro-America.” “pro-life.” or “pro-God.” And many people in Hollywood and the media want to **shut down, keep out — and crush** this type of diversity because it makes them uncomfortable.

They’re taking that discomfort and actively, openly **discriminating against people in the workplace**.

I would like to be hired for a role because I’m the best person for the job. **NOT** because my color or gender checks a mandated box. **NO**. That’s tokenism. **I and other professionals in entertainment and media should be hired for our abilities, not our melanin.**

**We want to feed our families. We want to pay our bills and thrive in the profession we love. We want equal protection.**

Yes, we need racial and ethnic diversity and representation matters. But “diversity” is **not only** about color, gender, or how able-bodied someone is or isn’t. That reduces people to their physicality, to the bodies they were born into — **something they didn’t have a choice about. But each of us is exquisitely more than that.**

There’s **an active cancelling** of diverse voices going on right now. It’s dangerous. It’s destructive.

It’s grounded in emotion and in fear — not facts.

**So what can Congress do about “cancel culture” in the entertainment and media worlds** — and the backlash against those who lean a certain way politically?

**We need to stop the discrimination against political affiliation. Just as we have protected classes in our country under federal law — for race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and disability — It's time to include political affiliations.**

Congress has an opportunity to be a watchdog and to set the tone. Employers in Hollywood and the larger entertainment field should not discriminate based on political leanings.

We need fair and equal hiring practices, just as we do with other protected classes. A person's political beliefs have ***nothing to do with*** how they're going to be able to sing, or act, or perform.

I'm an American, first and foremost. I'm proud of our country, and I want to see it thrive. I want to protect it for future generations as well.

Our speech is protected by the First Amendment. ***It should be protected from discrimination in hiring practices, too.***

Let me add that Hollywood is basically a monopoly right now. There are six major studios — and ***none, to my knowledge, are committed to diversity of thought in terms of welcoming conservatives with open arms.*** "The Big Six" are comprised of motion picture conglomerates 20th Century Fox, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros., Universal Pictures, Columbia Pictures, and Walt Disney Studios — and they account for over 83 percent of the [North American market share](#), bringing in billions of dollars in revenue each year, according to Statista.

They all are the setting the tone, and that tone doesn't sing the song of diversity.

I implore congress to act now by expanding the civil rights act of 1964 to include Political Affiliation as a protected class.

Media companies that ***agree in writing not to discriminate based on political leanings could be offered certain advantages, such as tax breaks.***

This is about protecting not just Conservatives — ***it's about protecting all Americans***, no matter who they are, where they live, or what kind of work they do. ***And no matter how loud, or quiet, their voices are.***

***We are one country with many voices.***

***And each of us deserves a fighting chance to succeed!***

The 1st amendment gives us the freedom of association. I strongly believe that that includes the right to freely associate with the political party of one's choosing.

Political bigotry is silencing the voices of Americans.