

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ANNA M. GOMEZ
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, REGULATORY REFORM,
AND ANTITRUST**

“EXAMINING THE SPORTS BROADCASTING ACT”

JUNE 10, 2026

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, Subcommittee Chair Fitzgerald, Subcommittee Ranking Member Nadler, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

In living rooms and sports bars across the country, millions of Americans who may agree on little else will be gathered around their screens tonight for the NBA Finals, rooting together for their respective team. There are very few things left in American life that cut across every line of division the way sports does, and I say that as a proud Nationals and Wizards fan who knows exactly what it feels like to believe your team might actually pull it off this year.

We are living through a genuinely remarkable era for sports fans. More games, more leagues, more athletes, and more stories are accessible today than any previous generation could have imagined. At the same time, the economics of how fans actually watch have shifted in ways that deserve serious attention. What used to arrive through an antenna, available to anyone regardless of income, has increasingly migrated behind a growing stack of subscriptions and league-specific apps. For a family trying to follow their team through a full season, the cost of piecing together access across multiple platforms adds up quickly. How we ensure sports content remains accessible and available to all Americans is a question I want to situate within a much

broader set of concerns about who controls the media that carries these games and what they are doing with that power.

The FCC has a legitimate interest in helping gather information on how the Sports Broadcasting Act is functioning in a changing media environment, and I support efforts to ensure fans can access the games they love without paying a fortune. When sports programming migrates behind paywalls, fans lose access, local broadcasters lose the revenue that keeps their stations alive, and the local journalism those stations produce loses the funding on which they depend.

I also want to be candid about where the FCC's authority ends. The Commission can gather information, raise concerns, and call out fouls where it sees them, but any meaningful update to the Sports Broadcasting Act will ultimately require legislative action.

Despite growing public concern about the challenges facing the media ecosystem, this administration does not appear to be prioritizing consumer protection. According to reports, the scrutiny now being applied to sports leagues through government agencies like the FCC and DOJ appears to be driven less by a genuine interest in protecting fans and more by the influence of powerful media companies with close ties to this administration that stand to benefit financially from the outcome of that scrutiny. I have called this pattern the Billionaire Buddy Bypass, where the public interest gets bypassed in favor of a powerful few, and it extends well beyond sports broadcasting into a sweeping consolidation of media power that poses serious risks to journalism, to free expression, and to the Americans that depend on both.

That consolidation is where I want to spend the remainder of my time, because the stakes are high and the pattern is clear.

When the FCC unlawfully waived federal law to let one broadcaster reach 80 percent of local television households, more than double the cap Congress set by statute, it signaled it was willing to move the goal posts for the entire industry for the right relationships. When Paramount settled a baseless lawsuit just two days before their merger with Skydance was approved—and that approval was conditioned on commitments to reshape the editorial direction of CBS News—we saw what unchecked media consolidation leaves in its wake, including the collapse of 60 Minutes and the irreparable damage done to one of the most trusted names in American broadcast journalism.

And now that same ownership is seeking to add CNN, HBO, and Warner Bros. to that portfolio, financed by \$24 billion from sovereign wealth funds controlled by foreign governments with documented records of press suppression. Nearly half of that combined company would be in foreign government hands. Paramount has asked the FCC to authorize up to 100 percent foreign ownership of its broadcast licensees, and the FCC has shown every sign it intends to wave that through. Whether to authorize that level of foreign government control over American broadcast infrastructure, cable news networks, and Hollywood studios is a national security question that demands far more than a rubber stamp.

Media consolidation on this scale creates the conditions for exactly the kind of editorial control this administration has shown it intends to exercise, pursuing investigations and threatening the licenses of news organizations whose coverage it finds unfavorable. That

campaign of censorship and control does not happen without the consolidated media power that enables it.

The American people deserve a government whose approach to media policy starts and ends with their interests, not those of powerful companies, foreign governments, and an administration that has made clear it views media ownership as a tool of political control. I am grateful for this Committee's attention to these issues, and I welcome any questions you may have.

Thank you.