**Resolution re: restoring fairness and accuracy in media**

Whereas there has been broad support and attempts to restore the Fairness Doctrine since 2005, with numerous bills sponsored by at least six Democratic Representatives and Senators, with the support of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former President Clinton, and

Whereas the most recent attempt by Rep. [Tulsi Gabbard](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FTulsi_Gabbard&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cdfc08db1b8cb4f86c5f808da01f55ca1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637824450599648771%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ktkq3KSAi0%2F4j7pYKQYj2wwMTmhGWn6WZkVO2TDA5FE%3D&reserved=0) (D-HI) in 2019 was the Restore the Fairness Doctrine Act that would have mandated once again that television and radio broadcasters present both sides when discussing political or social issues, and

Whereas in 1969 in [*Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC*](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRed_Lion_Broadcasting_Co._v._FCC&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cdfc08db1b8cb4f86c5f808da01f55ca1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637824450599648771%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=lwaiDVS4ck4xkoZktGjicPlnTOkKqtsQHmFZCNrsCdg%3D&reserved=0), in response to challenges that the Fairness Doctrine violated the [First Amendment,](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FFirst_Amendment_to_the_U.S._Constitution&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cdfc08db1b8cb4f86c5f808da01f55ca1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637824450599648771%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=0yX2GsWiV243XHycA%2Fq8sZmQNK2CkdCe6CTgpmdEj70%3D&reserved=0) the U.S. Supreme Court upheld by a vote of 8–0 not only its constitutionality but furthermore declared it essential to democracy and said without it, station owners would have only people on the air who agreed with their opinions, and

Whereas in 1984, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that many considered expanded media sources rendered the Fairness Doctrine's limits unnecessary, yet since then increased concentration of media ownership has shown some broadcasters knowingly only have people on the air who agree with them, violating ethics of fairness and accuracy and failure to honor use of the public airwaves as a public service, and

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) originally had 7 commissioners but today has shrunk to only five commissioners and now has only four commissioners serving, two Democrats and two Republicans, leaving an unfilled vacancy,

**Therefore, be it resolved**, President Biden must fill immediately the current FCC vacancy by appointing a fifth commissioner and shall restore the FCC to seven commissioners, as originally designed, to increase diversity of views and prevent concentration of power and authority in fewer commissioners, mandating no more than four of the seven commissioners may be from one political party, and

**Be it further resolved** to amend current law to restore the prohibition against a single company from owning and operating more than 12 broadcast television stations nationwide as before, and, as before, from reaching more than 25 percent of U.S. households, and

**Be it further resolved, to** restrict ownership and cross-ownership of TV cable, radio, print and internet outlets to 12, with a reach of no more than 25 percent of US households, and

**Be it further resolved**, the FCC shall require — under its authority to process licensing and renewals for operators to use the public airwaves in the public interest, investigate complaints, and develop and implement regulatory programs — that broadcast operators each shall codify and make transparent their own standards for what constitutes “news” and clearly identify opinion and commentary as separate to viewers, and shall require broadcast operators to be responsible for defending the veracity of what they broadcast as “news” and shall consider breaches of operator standards when considering license renewals.

Submitted by Trudy Bialic, PCO

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