



RESOLUTION

Maintaining Access for Christian Broadcasters in the Video Marketplace

- WHEREAS** The introduction of streaming services has revolutionized the video marketplace, offering myriad ways for consumers to access television programming on demand;
- WHEREAS** Digital streaming services are not classified explicitly under the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 and the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, which are the primary laws governing carriage of broadcast television on multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs);
- WHEREAS** The NRB membership includes television broadcasters who produce or telecast religious programming which often has a uniquely local interest, showcasing programming from local churches and ministries, and providing wholesome, family-oriented viewing choices;
- WHEREAS** Many Christian television broadcasters rely on the local channel carriage responsibilities of pay-TV platforms, also known as “must-carry” rules, to continue providing valuable content that ministers to the spiritual welfare of their local communities;
- WHEREAS** Digital streaming platforms are not classified under a similar regulatory framework as MVPDs for the purpose of must-carry rules and retransmission consent, carrying considerable risk for local television broadcasters;
- WHEREAS** Local television broadcasters are frequently excluded when television networks and virtual streaming platforms negotiate terms of carriage, resulting in unfair or unfavorable take-it-or-leave-it carriage proposals for local and religious broadcasters;
- WHEREAS** Such arrangements deprive viewers who utilize streaming platforms of local, religious programming with a nexus to their communities;
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** That Congress should review the legal framework and statutory constraints under which the FCC must assess issues associated with MVPDs, including the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, and copyright policies;
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** That the FCC should refresh MB Docket 14-261 to explore and understand more recent changes in the local television marketplace and their impact on the public interest.

Approved by the Board of Directors May 22, 2023