

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2609

To establish a Presidential Commission to investigate and propose solutions to reduce the broadcasting of violence on television.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1993

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. ROUKEMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a Presidential Commission to investigate and propose solutions to reduce the broadcasting of violence on television.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Presidential Commis-
5 sion on TV Violence and Children Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the United States is continuing to experi-
9 ence widespread increases in violence and violent
10 crime which threaten the well-being of our society;

1 (2) graphic and gratuitous violence continue to
2 be a widespread and integral part of television pro-
3 gramming;

4 (3) an extensive, 20-year body of research exists
5 indicating a causal relationship between violence on
6 television and violence in society; and

7 (4) there is a need to find solutions that limit
8 the harmful influence of television violence and yet
9 maintain our freedom of expression.

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

11 There is established a commission to be known as the
12 “Presidential Commission on TV Violence and Children”
13 (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

14 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

15 The Commission shall—

16 (1) review and report on findings linking tele-
17 vision violence and violence in children and society;

18 (2) solicit opinions from children and their par-
19 ents on their views concerning television violence and
20 their suggestions for lessening its negative effects;

21 (3) solicit opinions from public health, crime,
22 and education experts; and broadcast, cable, film
23 and advertising industry of television violence and
24 their recommendations for lessening its negative ef-
25 fects; and

1 (4) present a final report and recommendations
2 for comprehensive strategies and solutions to allevi-
3 ate harmful effects of television violence that con-
4 tinue to preserve our tradition of free expression.

5 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

6 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
7 shall be composed of—

8 (1) the Surgeon General;

9 (2) the Attorney General; and

10 (3) 26 members appointed by the President as
11 follows:

12 (A) 12 shall be individuals from the follow-
13 ing groups: broadcast television networks and
14 their local affiliates; independent television sta-
15 tions; cable industry; film studios; writers and
16 producers of television shows and film; and
17 major advertisers.

18 (B) 8 shall be individuals from the follow-
19 ing groups: parents and children; parents orga-
20 nizations; and leaders of community and reli-
21 gious groups.

22 (C) 6 shall be individuals from the follow-
23 ing groups: public health experts who study tel-
24 evision violence; crime prevention experts who

1 study television violence; and education experts
2 who study television violence.

3 (b) TERMS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
5 pointed for the life of the Commission.

6 (2) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill
7 a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the
8 term for which the member's predecessor was ap-
9 pointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of
10 that term. A member may serve after the expiration
11 of that member's term until a successor has taken
12 office. A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled
13 in the manner in which the original appointment was
14 made.

15 (c) PAY PROHIBITED.—

16 (1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in
17 paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall
18 serve without pay.

19 (2) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION OF FED-
20 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Commission
21 who are full-time officers or employees of the United
22 States or Members of Congress may not receive ad-
23 ditional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of
24 their service on the Commission.

1 (d) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
2 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
3 in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,
4 United States Code.

5 (e) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
6 Commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number
7 may hold hearings.

8 (f) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Sur-
9 geon General shall serve as chairperson and the Attorney
10 General shall serve as vice chairperson of the Commission.

11 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
12 call of the chairperson.

13 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION; EXPERTS**
14 **AND CONSULTANTS.**

15 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall, without re-
16 gard to section 5311(b) of title 5, United States Code,
17 have a Director who shall be appointed by the Commis-
18 sion. The Director shall be paid at the maximum rate of
19 basic pay payable for GS-13 of the General Schedule.

20 (b) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix
21 the pay of additional personnel as it considers appropriate.

22 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
23 LAWS.—The staff of the Commission shall be appointed
24 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,
25 governing appointments in the competitive service, and

1 shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter
2 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating
3 to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

4 (d) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
5 of the Chairperson, the head of any Federal department
6 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
7 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
8 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

9 **SEC. 7. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

10 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
11 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
12 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
13 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

14 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
15 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
16 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
17 thorized to take by this section.

18 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
19 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
20 United States information necessary to enable it to carry
21 out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson or Vice
22 Chairperson of the Commission, the head of that depart-
23 ment or agency shall furnish that information to the Com-
24 mission.

1 (d) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
2 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
3 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
4 States.

5 (e) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon
6 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
7 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
8 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
9 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
10 under this Act.

11 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

12 The Commission shall transmit a final report to the
13 President and the Congress not later than one year from
14 the date the Commission members are appointed. The
15 final report shall contain a detailed statement of the find-
16 ings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its
17 recommendations for such legislative, administrative, and
18 voluntary actions on the part of appropriate industry as
19 the Commission considers appropriate to alleviate the
20 harmful effects of television violence.

21 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

22 The Commission shall terminate 6 months after sub-
23 mitting its final report pursuant to section 8.

1 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to
3 carry out this Act.

4 **SEC. 11. BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.**

5 Any spending authority (as defined in subparagraphs
6 (A) and (C) of section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional
7 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 651(c)(2)(A) and (C))) au-
8 thorized by this Act shall be effective only to such extent
9 and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation
10 Acts.

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