

March 16, 2017 Update

The [Administration's FY 2018 budget blueprint](#) released today proposes to end future funding for public broadcasting. This step by the Administration is but the first in a long journey to decide funding levels for the federal government. Ultimately, the Congress will make final decisions on continuing the annual federal investment in our stations and the public broadcasting system. We recognize the seriousness of this moment and also know of the long-standing, bipartisan congressional support for public broadcasting.

Our first step in responding to this proposal is to demonstrate the breadth and scope of public support for WPM and the annual federal investment made by Congress. We are beginning our response plan by inviting you to share your thoughts and opinions with Congress by visiting [Protect My Public Media](#). This is a good opportunity to express your opinions. If you want, you can join other supporters in a petition urging Congress to continue its support. You can also record or write a testimonial for our own Wyoming's site – I Love WPR.

Below is a statement from Patricia Harrison, CPB's CEO:

“There is no viable substitute for federal funding that ensures Americans have universal access to public media’s educational and informational programming and services. The elimination of federal funding to CPB would initially devastate and ultimately destroy public media’s role in early childhood education, public safety, connecting citizens to our history, and promoting civil discussions – all for Americans in both rural and urban communities. Public media is one of America’s best investments. At approximately \$1.35 per citizen per year, it pays huge dividends to every American. From expanding opportunity, beginning with proven children’s educational content to providing essential news and information as well as ensuring public safety and homeland security through emergency alerts, this vital investment strengthens our communities. It is especially critical for those living in small towns and in rural and underserved areas. Viewers and listeners appreciate that public media is non-commercial and available for free to all Americans. We will work with the new Administration and Congress in raising awareness that elimination of federal funding to CPB begins the collapse of the public media system itself and the end of this essential national service.”