

United States Senate

May 21, 2026

The Honorable Cory Gardner
Chairman
TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board
P.O. Box 771
Washington, D.C. 20044

Senator Gardner:

I write to follow up on my letter of May 4, 2022, in which I raised concerns that sexualized and politicized themes were increasingly appearing in children's programming without adequate notice to parents. In one instance, from March 2022, Disney executives made comments that heightened parents' worries that sensitive topics, including sexual orientation and gender identity themes, were being intentionally aimed at young children.¹

At the time, I urged updates to the TV Parental Guidelines (Guidelines) to reflect best practices that help families make informed viewing choices. By all appearances, the situation has worsened in the four years since.

A recent analysis of Netflix children's programming by Concerned Women for America (CWA) found that 41% of series rated TV-G and 41% of series rated TV-Y7 contained LGBTQ content, messages, characters, or themes, yet none of that content was disclosed to parents through rating information or descriptors.²

I am grateful to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Brendan Carr for taking appropriate action by asking the public to weigh in on whether the Guidelines adequately empower parents to protect their children and make informed viewing choices.³ Chairman Carr is correct in his assessment that these inappropriate themes and storylines are being put in front of young children without any proper transparency or disclosures to parents.

However, the TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board also needs to act. It's clear that the entertainment industry has failed to address the concerns of parents, and its ongoing incorporation of inappropriate sexual and ideological themes into children's television demands a response.

¹ "Disney executive who is the mother of a transgender and a pansexual child says she wants at least half of ALL future characters to be LGBTQIA or racial minorities: Theme parks are now banned from saying 'hello boys and girls'," *Daily Mail*, March 30, 2022, <https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-10666065/Disney-prez-says-mom-transgender-pansexual-children-wants-diverse-characters.html>.

² Concerned Women for America, *LGBTQ Messaging Pervasive In Netflix Children's Programming* (Washington, DC: Concerned Women for America, 2025), <https://concernedwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CWA-Netflix-Report.pdf>.

³ Federal Communications Commission, *FCC's Media Bureau Seeks Comment On Further Empowering Parents To Protect Their Children And Make Informed Choices About The TV Programs Their Children Watch* (Washington, DC: FCC, 2026), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-392A1.pdf>.

The accompanying descriptors and program information that explain why a rating was assigned are critical for parents, but the ratings system is only as useful as the information it conveys. I encourage continued improvement in the clarity and completeness of these descriptors so that families can make informed decisions, particularly when programming includes themes that parents may reasonably view as mature, controversial, or confusing for younger audiences.

Specifically, I urge the Board to consider the following improvements:

1. Publish clearer, more accessible explanations of how age ratings and content descriptors are assigned, including decision criteria that parents can readily understand.
2. Ensure that content descriptors and program information provide parents with sufficient, timely notice of material they wish to manage for younger viewers, including when programming includes discussion or promotion of gender identity themes, sexual content, or other mature topics.
3. Improve consistency of ratings and descriptors across distribution platforms so that the same rating label conveys comparable information, whether a program is viewed over broadcast, cable, or streaming.
4. Increase transparency regarding Board membership and evaluate whether participation is sufficiently balanced to include family-oriented, faith-based, and other non-industry viewpoints.
5. Strengthen and publicize the viewer feedback process, including clear timelines and mechanisms for parents to understand how their concerns are considered and resolved.
6. Expand efforts to inform the public about available parental controls and blocking tools on modern entertainment devices so that parents can effectively act on ratings information.

Given the substantial concerns raised by parents regarding the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity themes in programming rated for young audiences, I expect the Board to evaluate whether current rating categories and content descriptors adequately disclose such material and, where they do not, to update its guidance accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger W. Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator