



## **Pacifica Foundation Statement on the Defunding of Public Media by Congress**

*July 2025*

The Pacifica Foundation stands in firm opposition to the recent decision by Congress to defund public media - a move that threatens not only the operational capacity of public radio stations, but the very existence of many community outlets that serve as vital lifelines for local news, climate emergencies, culture, and democratic discourse.

Congress's withdrawal of funding from public radio places critical independent voices at risk across the country. In this time of social crisis and climate emergencies, local stations provide vital information for keeping our communities safe. Years of corporate media consolidation and deregulation have taken media out of community hands while social media platforms cut back on fact-checking, leaving communities vulnerable to misinformation.

Pacifica operates within a vibrant national network of community and independent radio stations dedicated to localism, diversity, and First Amendment protections. We remain deeply committed to the public good of independent media, recognizing its essential role in advancing democracy, free expression, and access to underrepresented voices.

Due to the recent decision by Congress to discontinue funding for public media, many Pacifica affiliate stations will no longer receive support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for their operations and programming. We stand firm in our mission of independent media and stand in solidarity with media outlets who serve the public - not corporate interests.

Because of this commitment, the Pacifica Foundation:

- **Affirms its solidarity** with all public and independent media institutions affected by these funding cuts.
- **Upholds the strength and purpose** of the Pacifica Affiliate Network, a coalition of community stations that collectively serve millions of listeners across the country.
- **Reasserts the importance** of community radio as a critical part of the national media landscape, often providing the only platform for local issues, independent journalism, and culturally diverse programming.
- **Commits to collaborating** with allied organizations such as NPR, PBS, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB), and others to defend and strengthen public media.

### **Pacifica's Planned Actions:**

- Launch **fundraising initiatives** to support both national news and local newsroom development across Pacifica's network.
- Help create **new funding pathways** to help stations cover operating costs previously supported by CPB.
- Partner with NFCB and others to explore **group buying options** for expenses such as royalty fees and other shared services.
- Provide **legal resources, policy updates, and technical assistance** to help affiliate stations navigate the shifting funding landscape.
- Promote **public education and awareness campaigns** that emphasize the importance of community and public media as pillars of a democratic society.

This is a defining moment for the future of non-commercial media in the United States. The Pacifica Foundation calls on our listeners, supporters, and fellow media institutions to take action and stand united in defense of independent public broadcasting.

**In solidarity,**  
*Stephanie Wells*  
*Executive Director, Pacifica Foundation*