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Public Access Television producer

Raised Bill No. 278

AN ACT REQUIRING MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTORS TO PAY A COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING FEE.

Chairman Needleman, Chairman Arconti, Vice Chairs Winfield and Allie-Brennan, Ranking Members Ferraro and Formica, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I am a certified producer at Sound View Community Media in Stratford, CT.

This testimony is submitted asking your support for S.B. No. 278

Funding for Public Access TV has been shrinking in the past several years. Producers have experienced reduced studio hours and have been unable to access the most up-to-date equipment to produce the best quality programming. Passing this bill will help the TV centers remain open and have more staff available for studios.

Public Access TV is a valuable community service that has been around for many years. Many individuals and community groups rely on Public Access to keep their viewers and congregations informed of activities in the local area. During the pandemic when churches and schools were closed, Public Access channels played an essential role in carrying our messages to the people. We ask that you help the Public TV centers survive to chart a course for the future and protect our rights under the First Amendment. This is the only venue of mass media that ensures there is NO exercise of editorial control over the speech and speakers on the channels.

Therefore, I urge you to support S.B. No. 278

Thank you very much.