

Public radio and television, including PBS, serve a crucial role in the American media landscape, justifying continued support through taxpayer funds. They provide access to in-depth, unbiased news, cultural programming, and, importantly, free, educational content. PBS, in particular, is renowned for its high-quality children's programming that fosters early learning and development. This, alongside documentaries and educational series for all ages, contributes significantly to public knowledge and is incredibly useful in the classroom (pbslearningmedia.org is free to use for all educators, whereas other curriculum resources cost money!). Public radio and television stations are vital sources of local news, emergency information, and educational resources in rural and underserved communities. Furthermore, public funding ensures that these stations can prioritize public service over profit, offering diverse perspectives and content that enriches civic discourse. The relatively small investment of taxpayer dollars yields a significant return in terms of informed citizenry, cultural preservation, and accessible education, making it a valuable use of public funds. I urge do not pass recommendation for HB 1255.

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