

July 11, 2005

Chairman Kenneth Tomlinson
Corporation for Public Broadcasting
401 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2129

Dear Chairman Tomlinson:

We write to express our deep concern that PBS utilized not only American taxpayer funds, but also funds from the Playboy Foundation, to fund a “documentary” against abstinence education and in favor of contraceptive-based sex education for teens.

According to the PBS website, a film entitled “The Education of Shelby Knox” was funded in part by the taxpayers and in part by the Playboy Foundation. It is obvious to us why the Playboy Foundation would have a financial interest in funding what amounts to promiscuity propaganda, given that its founder has not made his millions promoting abstinence until marriage. What is less obvious is why PBS, an organization that associates itself with “Big Bird” and “Sesame Street” and as recently as last month represented itself to Congress as promoting family programming, would team up with the Playboy Foundation.

It is unfortunate that the Playboy Foundation-funded documentary not only advocates contraception-based sex education for teenagers, but also seeks to portray abstinence-until-marriage education in a negative light. Abstinence programs not only provide our nation’s youth the facts about human sexuality, but they also teach them how to recognize and reject inappropriate sexual advances and pressures. These extraordinary programs help teenagers stay healthy, develop strong self-esteem, and improve their future, a contribution to society that Congress has affirmed year after year through our budget and appropriations process.

In fiscal year 2005, taxpayers will provide \$400 million to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, from which PBS affiliates around the country draw funding. While only 15% of PBS’ annual budget comes from federal taxpayers, we believe it is important for PBS to account for the millions of dollars in federal funds that it receives so we may ensure taxpayer funds are being used appropriately.

In light of these concerns, please provide us with information regarding the nature of the relationship between PBS and the Playboy Foundation. Specifically, please provide the following:

- 1) The amount of federal funds spent on the “Education of Shelby Knox,” including, but not limited to, funds spent on development, production, website design, promotional materials, etc.
- 2). A comprehensive list of PBS projects, programs, events, etc. funded and/or sponsored by both the federal government and the Playboy Foundation, with the federal funding amounts delineated per project, program, event, etc.
- 3) Copies of any and all documents and communications (including electronic communication) between PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting regarding “The Education of Shelby Knox.”
- 4) Copies of any and all communications (including electronic communication), between the Corporation for Public Broadcasting employees or representatives to employees or representative of the Playboy Foundation within the last three fiscal years, including the current fiscal year.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Signatories on letter to PBS regarding the Playboy Foundation, dated July 11, 2005.

Reps:	Marchant
Akin	McHenry
Barrett	Musgrave
Bartlett	Neugebauer
Culberson	Norwood
Doolittle	Pence
Feeney	Pitts
Flake	Rohrabacher
Gingrey	Ryun
Goode	S. Johnson
Gutknecht	Shadegg
Hart	Sodrel
Hensarling	Terry
Hunter	Westmoreland
S. King	