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PENCE VOTES TO RETURN DECENCY TO BROADCASTING

Washington, Mar 11, 2004 - Washington, D.C.— Congressman Mike Pence voted today for the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act, which will help return decency in broadcasting to America's airwaves. The bill passed the House 391-22. Attached is Pence's floor speech and background on the bill.

"As a former broadcaster, I rise to say that living within the existing decency standards is not a burden.

"The public airwaves belong to the American people, and as such, the American people have every right to establish standards to protect our families.

"This is not about free speech. This is about decent speech on the public airwaves as defended by long-standing Constitutional standards."

The BDEA allows the FCC to impose a fine up to $500,000 against broadcasters or every indecent violation of "obscene, indecent or profane material." Additionally, the bill allows the FCC to fine networks and entertainers who willfully or intentionally violate decency standards up to $500,000 for airing "obscene, indecent or profane material."

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