

ABC's *Good Morning America*

09/18/25

7:00:58 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Suspended]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: ABC suspends late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel after a threat from the head of the FCC appointed by President Trump kept calling for a Kimmel suspension over comments about Charlie Kirk's death. This morning, the response from leading Democrats.

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7:05:39 a.m.

2 minutes and 35 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Jimmy Kimmel's Show "Pre-Empted Indefinitely" by ABC]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to move now to breaking news involving our parent company Disney and ABC, which pulled Jimmy Kimmel from the air overnight hours after a threat to the network from the head of the Federal Communications Commission appointed by President Trump. The move has drawn a sharply polarized response. Elizabeth Schulze has the latest from Washington. Good morning, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH SCHULZE: Hey, good morning, George. That's right. The decision to suspend Jimmy Kimmel came after comments from FCC chair Brendan Carr. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] Overnight, ABC pulling late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel off the air, hours after a threat from the head of the Federal Communications Commission. Brendan Carr called for Kimmel suspension over comments earlier this week on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* about conservative influencer Charlie Kirk's death.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: We had some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it.

SCHULZE: Carr criticizing the host and the network, saying this Wednesday afternoon a conservative commentator Benny Johnson's podcast.

FCC CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR [on *The Benny Show*, 09/17/25]: They have a license granted by us at the FCC, that comes with an obligation to operate in the public interest and we can get into some ways that we've been trained to reinvigorate the public interest and some changes that we've seen. But, frankly, when you see stuff like this, I mean, look, we can do this

the easy way or the hard way. These companies can find ways to change conduct, to take action, Frankly, on cable, or there's going to be additional work for the FCC ahead.

SCHULZE: Nexstar and Sinclair, two of the largest owners of network affiliates said they would preempt *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* ABC pulling the plug. A spokesperson for the network saying "*Jimmy Kimmel Live!* will be preempted indefinitely." President Trump now calling Carr's decision to cancel Kimmel "Great News for America." Turning his attention to late-night host Jimmy Fallon and Seth Myers on NBC. The President writing, "That leaves Jimmy and Seth," adding, "Do it NBC!" An immediate response from leading Democrats, from Senator Chuck Schumer to California Governor Gavin Newsom. "Firing commentators, canceling shows. These aren't coincidences. It's coordinated. And it's dangerous." Unions representing entertainment professionals and riders have condemned the decision. Nexstar is seeking to merge with another local affiliate group in a deal worth \$6 billion. That deal would require approval from the FCC under Brendan Carr, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah, and this threat from the FCC the latest in a series of moves against the independent media from President Trump and his appointees, Michael?

MICHAEL STRAHAN: All right, thank you George.