

Mark Lazarus  
CEO, SpinCo  
and  
Rebecca Kutler  
President, MSNBC  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112

RE: SILENCING CREDIBLE BLACK VOICES IN MEDIA


Dear Mr. Lazarus and Ms. Kutler:

On behalf of Common Cause I am writing to express disappointment and outrage as a result of the cancellation of The ReidOut featuring award winning journalist Joy Reid from the programming line-up on MSNBC. Removing her show not only weakens MSNBC's credibility but also undermines the diverse perspectives essential for a truly democratic society. The Freedom of Press has been a core American value since the founding of our nation. In order for a civilized society to remain free, then the press has to be free so the American people can consume the information reported in its authentic form.

In the 21st century, we need journalists such as Mrs. Reid, coupled with the courage of MSNBC, to be dedicated to keeping Americans safe by arming citizens with factual information. In keeping with our belief in freedom of the press, Mrs. Reid displayed night after night her ability to provide fearless, fact-based analysis that holds power accountable. She had an approach that challenged the status quo while lockstep with journalistic integrity, never wavering from her being the public trustee of news. Her award-winning reporting held true to the Journalist's Creed, specifically fearing God and honoring man; "is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power."

NCNW and Common Cause are calling your attention to the pattern that is becoming consistent with the removal of strong Black female journalists with voice. Mrs. Reid is now the third example. We strongly encourage you to end the practice of silencing Black journalists with voice. We welcome an in-person meeting with you and your colleagues to discuss further the impact of these decisions on a community with a viewing and consumer power of nearly two trillion dollars and a network that has utilized its platform to promote progressive perspectives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Virginia Kase Solomón