



September 8, 2009



Re: Request that you remove all of your advertising from The Learning Channel

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to ask that you temporarily remove all of your advertising from TLC. We are asking that you do this until such time as TLC stops using children in their Reality TV Shows or until such time as TLC adopts measures to ensure that all of these children are given the same rights as child actors. TLC claims that these children are participants as opposed to actors and as such do not qualify for child actor protection. Nothing could be further from the truth as the essential components of these shows are the children, not the parents.

TLC should follow the regulations set by the Fair Labor Standards Act (1938) including the child actor exemption filled by the regulations provided by the States of California and New York. These include acknowledging that the children are employees, are entitled to compensation and rights of employment, have set working hours among other standards. Without these safeguards these children are being exploited and are, in our opinion, subject to neglect and emotional abuse.

Child AbuseWatch.net has written to TLC's chairman, John Hendricks, and their corporate board on three occasions (6/22, 7/23 and 8/30) bringing our concerns to their attention that the children on one of their shows – *Jon&Kate+8* - are subject to what we perceive as emotional abuse and neglect at the hands of their parents and TLC. Mr. Hendricks and TLC did not see fit to respond to our communications; instead they redoubled their efforts to repackage the show in the face of rapidly dwindling viewers. These neglect issues are confirmed in that there is an investigation underway by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor. An investigation by the Pennsylvania Department of Children and Family service to which we registered a complaint in June could not be confirmed due to issues of privacy.

In our efforts to curtail the use and abuse of children in reality shows we focused on this one show. We get many emails asking us to highlight other TLC children reality shows including "*Toddlers and Tiaras*," described as one writer as 'child erotica' and another as 'borderline child pornography.'

It is our belief that the only way to get TLC to act responsibly is through the action of advertisers like you, who write their checks. Without you – their sources of revenue - they will have no choice but to do the right thing by these children.

A large and ever growing group of concerned parents, former viewers of these shows, is gathering and are looking for a way to stop what they regard as TLC's blatant exploitation of children. Your curtailing of advertising would certainly earn their respect. Additional information and copies of our correspondence to TLC is available on our website: www.abusewatch.net (right side menu).

Please contact me directly with any questions. Thank you,

EVIN M DALY

Evin M. Daly
Founder, Executive Director
Child AbuseWatch.NET
www.abusewatch.net
edaly@abusewatch.net

Via email