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May 1, 2019

Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SE

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply Comments to Media Bureau on Video Description Marketplace Improvements (DA 19-40)

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing to you in support of the comments filed by the American Council of the Blind (ACB) on April 1. Video description is a transformative tool enjoyed by Americans who are sighted, visually impaired, as well as blind. I agree with ACB that the FCC's report to inform Congress on the video description marketplace should:

Recommend the expansion of video description to serve all Americans;

Recommend expanding the required hours of described programming;

Recommend that video described programming be passed through to consumers, regardless of the means of video delivery; and,

Recommend the creation of a centralized guide listing for all video described programming.

I am please that I can join with friends as well as independently to have access to movies, TV, etc. at times when there is audio description, but there are still notable times when I am left out and cannot fully participate. Asking others to tell me what is going on visually impacts on their enjoyment, and it is rude to do that especially in a theater. Enjoying access to entertainment, news, alerts and more is meaningful to me just as it is to you and your loved ones. Another point I have brought up to the FCC is access to TV marketing. I have noticed that about half of the opportunities to make purchases from TV commercials are completely inaccessible since they say "call the number on your screen" which ONLY gives access to those with vision. Even our public TV has REFUSED to verbalize the phone number during their telethon which offers many opportunities to which I am excluded. I truly thank you for the audio description that is available and urge continued increase so I can have the same access that other citizens enjoy.

Sincerely,

MariLyn Piepho