

95-174

Established 1921

PHSDS

PITTSBURGH HEARING, SPEECH & DEAF SERVICES, INC.

1945 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-5543 • (412) 281-1375 (Voice or TTY) • (412) 281-6564 (FAX)

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FEB 20 1996

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February 16, 1996

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Ms. Secretary:

Pittsburgh Hearing, Speech and Deaf Services, Inc. (PHSDS) a 75 year old community based nonprofit center, provides a comprehensive program of diagnostic, rehabilitative, and supportive services for persons of all ages who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or speech impaired. The Agency currently serves more than 5,000 children and adults annually. Closed captioning of television programs and videos has greatly enhanced the quality of life for PHSDS' consumers as well as millions of other Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PHSDS acknowledges and commends the Congress for their support of Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). At this time, PHSDS is requesting you to consider close captioning all television programs. Currently, a significant portion of the population is excluded access to all television programs. When all television programs are closed captioned and thereby accessible to millions of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, the determination of what they elect to watch will be made by personal choice rather than by if the program is closed captioned.

Your consideration of the above request is appreciated and PHSDS looks forward to the time in America's history when persons who are deaf or hard of hearing have full access to television programming.

Sincerely,



K. Marlene Roberts
Executive Director

KMR:jg

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Audiology and Speech Pathology Professionals Accredited by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Supported in part by United Way

The official registration and financial information of Pittsburgh Hearing, Speech and Deaf Services, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1(800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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775 ERFORD ROAD
CAMP HILL, PA 17011-1126

February 15, 1996

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Mr + Mrs Charles A. Ludwig
CHARLES A. LUDWIG
MARY J. LUDWIG

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