

95-126

4753 Adenmoor Avenue  
Lakewood, CA 90708  
February 15, 1996

RECEIVED  
MAR 4 1996  
FCC MAIL ROOM

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

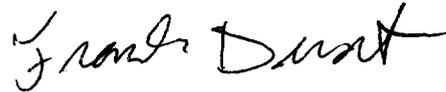
Dear Sir/Madam:

Thanks a lot for new law about TeleCom.

I need for close-captioned about comedy shows-30 minutes, drama shows-an hour, good movies, learning channels, NEWS, game shows and interviews. Most bad or violent movies must be captioned. I want to keep close-captioned for emergency news and "Broadcast spectrum."

I'm so glad for "V-Chip" to solve the problems for the kids to avoid wrong programs. I think about all the good TV programs and movies for them. I'm hopeful for this country's dream will come true into the 21st Century.

Sincerely,



Frank Dunat

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359 East 138th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90061

95-176

February 14, 1996

The office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Miss Lavern M. Lewis. I am Hard of Hearing, I attend Educational, Training, and Placement Program at Goodwill Industries in Long Beach, California.

I support closed Captioned because we Deaf and Hard of Hearing people needs to know what is going on in the world, or on the News, TV programs, and Commericals.

I agree with the manufactures wanting to make the V-Chips to put into the Televisions and Computers. Its will allow the parents to choose what shows or programs is right for their children to watch or use.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

*Miss Lavern M. Lewis*

Miss Lavern M. Lewis

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95-176

February 14, 1996

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION  
1919 M. STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Melissa Azevedo. I am deaf. I read the paper about tele-com from my teacher at Goodwill. I am supporting your idea about long distance telephone. I think having just the one long distance telephone company is a good idea. That will help is have less stress pressure trying to choose a telephone company. Having only one company will help us save money on phone bills and I won't have to worry about which long distance phone will be the cheapest to choose from.

I really want all closing captioning must have program show, news "Live", commerical, old show. And also I want closing captioning is 24 hours everyday. I need to know what is going on what the people tells me about what is happening.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Azevedo*

Melissa Azevedo  
15515 Budlong Pl. #18  
Gardena, CA 90247

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95-176

5301 W. 119th Place  
Inglewood, CA 90304

February 14, 1996

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 4 1996  
FCC MAIL ROOM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a deaf, a student in Education, Training and Placement Program at Goodwill. I enjoyed reading about new Telecom law in the newspaper..

I like the idea of adding Closed Caption to Cable Television because. It's good for all of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to watch and understand on T.V. Also that is good way for people to learn English on T.V. I also hope that there will be open caption on movies too. The deaf and Hard of Hearing people will appreciate that T.V. will have Closed Caption on all of the program or movies.

Thank you for your time and Good luck working on Telecom law.

Sincerely,

*Christina Bezouska*

Christina Bezouska

*[Handwritten signature]*

95-176

2751 Van Buren St.  
Long Beach, CA 90810

February 14, 1996

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1991 M. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 4 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a Deaf student in Education, Training and Placement Program at Goodwill. I read about Telecom law in the Newspaper.

Cable Television - I don't understand what is said on Television I want understanding the close caption all in cable television for future. That mean deaf people can watch on cable television with closed caption on all channels and movie too.

They need to set up open caption in any movie theater because have many deaf and hard of hearing. I also hope as open caption all movie. I will be happy it all of it is done.

Thank you for your time. I hope about telecom law is success in the future.

Sincerely,

*Rosario Justiniano*  
Rosario Justiniano

*[Signature]*

95-116



# CONFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS SERVING THE DEAF, Inc.

AN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE DEAF

Office of the President: Oscar P. Cohen, Ed.D.

(718) 899-8800  
(718) 899-3030 TDD  
(718) 899-1621 FAX

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

February 26, 1996

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf, who in turn represent thousands of deaf and hard of hearing children throughout the United States in the "Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming (FCC 95-484)."

Closed caption television has been a major breakthrough for deaf children. It has provided access to an invaluable form of media previously denied to them. More importantly, it has provided a means of exposing deaf children to printed English that has fostered growth in the development of reading and writing skills. Due to the lack of hearing, literacy skill development in deaf children is the major obstacle facing their growth and development.

Technical advances in closed captioning television have provided enormous opportunities to promote this development. With the TELECOM Bill before us, it is essential that the FCC support the mandatory closed captioning of all television programs as a way to include all citizens in maximizing their access to the culture of our country and to promote the development of those literacy skills so badly needed to insure that all our citizens contribute to the economy and other obligations and responsibilities of our society.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar P. Cohen

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DATE

95-176

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RECEIVED  
MAR 4 1996  
FEDERAL RESERVE

February 20, 1996

Subject: Closed Captioning, FCC 95-489

Dear Sir/Madam

I am deaf. I come to Goodwill and I heard the teacher leader talked about the newspaper Telecom. I enjoyed watch on television cable, movies different to things. Movies was very good sometimes. I listen and watch on news very important to happened. And, I want to see more captions on. Television, especially cable.

Thank you.

*Solita Jolene Dukes*

Solita Jolene Dukes

*O*

95-176

2001 Beverly Plaza #115  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
February 15, 1996

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RECEIVED  
MAR 4 1996  
FCC FILE REC

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Congratulation! The Telecom Law signed by President Clinton. I am deaf and I have been reading newspaper about Telecom Law. I am glad that President Clinton agreed about the Law.**

**I would like to have 24 hours close caption on any programs from oldest to present movies. Any company or business is strongly encouraged to sponsor to pay for close caption on any programs.**

**I think it is very good about Video Dialtone by through phone line and Television. It will be easier for group of people who have Club, Business, or General meeting can watch the Video Dialtone at home during the meeting. Any reasons of markets will be excellent for Business, Club, or General meeting, and even at home. Hopefully this will accessible to the disabled, too.**

**Thank you for your time to read the letter and hope it will successful in 1997.**

Sincerely,

*Corinnia Sporman*

**Corinnia Sporman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
C

95-176

5029 Strohm Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91601-4152  
February 15, 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 4 1996  
FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is in regard to the Telecommunication Reform Act, and I am expressing my support for full access for disabled consumers in all areas of communication as covered under this Act.

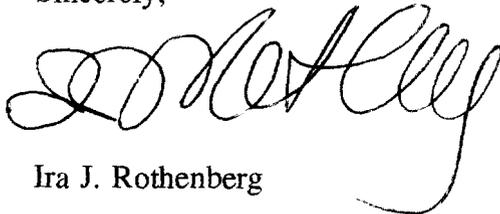
Another area of access that I have strong concern is captioning services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, ranging from pre-recorded programs to live/ad-libbed segments, including special news bulletins and videocassettes available for rentals.

I wish to see captions on MORE classics movies on videocassettes AND cable, particularly a) the 3-1/2-star/4-star/A-grade movies of 1930's-1960's, b) from Ted Turner's MGM films, c) Hitchcock films and d) English voice dubbings on foreign-language films. The reason I emphasize on 3-1/2 or 4-star old movies is that the industry tends to caption more on the 2-star/B-grade movies. That seems to insult my high taste and intelligence of appreciating A-grade, old flicks. Also, movies shown on airplanes of U.S. airline carriers should be open-captioned.

I also want to see that the closed captions do NOT cover or obscure the S.E.G.-text captions (such as the names/occupations/location) put on by the TV station technicians. In other words, the closed captions OR the S.E.G.-text caption would have to be moved to a different place on the TV screen where I can see both of them.

Thank you for your attention and efforts.

Sincerely,



Ira J. Rothenberg

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4601 Cervato St <sup>95-176</sup>  
Long Beach, CA 90815

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The office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1991 M. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

February 14, 1996

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MAR 4 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm deaf. I'm a student at Goodwill. The teacher taught me how to read the news paper. I was very happy to hear about the new Telecom Law. I will watch anything on T.V with closedcaptioning next year because I need to understand what's happening on the news in the world. The broadcasts require closedcaptioning for the news on T.V. Then I will understand the news broadcasts. It will be a better life in the future. If these changes are successful.

So I'm proud and praise to you for your good work for all deaf people in the U.S.A.

Sincerely

Nelika Weerasekera

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/15/2000 BY SP-6/STP/STP

95-176

3330 GOLDEN AVE.  
LONG BEACH CA. 90806  
February 14, 1996

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MAR 4 1996

FCC FILE FILE

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1991 M. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deaf and now a student at Goodwill Industries. My teacher has told us every information about the newspaper of New Telecom Challenge and she has encourage to familiarize with this New Bill of Telecom.

The caption is really good but I have concern that sometime when I am watching the Television, the missing letters confuse me. Sometimes in one hour, I see captions. Sometimes at the next hour, there are no captions even on the same channel. I want captions on all channels at any hour. I hope to see they add or make better changes.

I want to Congratulate about the V-Chip installation, but I have some concerns about the idea since some kids are smart enough to know how to break through, But my question is "What is your suggestion?"

Thank you for your cooperation, I really appreciate your concern over this matter.

Sincererly yours,



Hinano Fatulegae'e

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95-176

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MAR 4 1996

Morton Goldstein  
4360 Ludwick St  
Pittsburgh Pa. 15217

February 27, 1996

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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is Hard of Hearing. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am lost and do not get right information by reason of my disability.

I commend that the congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Program is a benefit to me and everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when we and I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program we or 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,  
*Morton Goldstein*  
Morton Goldstein

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MAR 4 1996

95-176

FCC MAIL ROOM  
The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 26, 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of  
Video Programming (FCC 95-484)

To the FCC:

My name is Dane Eanone. I am a deaf student at The Learning  
Center for Deaf Children.

It is good for deaf people to understand more information  
through closed captioning.

We need to learn and know what is said. We need closed  
captioning on movies. We need closed captioning on the TV and  
videos.

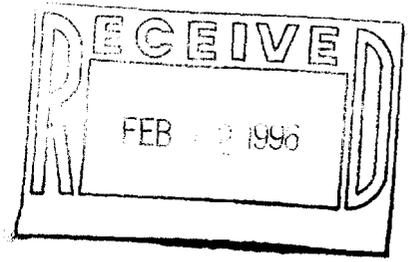
Sincerely,



Dane Eanone  
39 Horseshoe Dr.  
West Boylston, MA 01583

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MAR 04 1996  
FCC MAIL ROOM



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

128 West Cherry Street  
Clyde OH 43410  
February 08, 1996

Federal Communications  
Office of Secretary  
1919 M Street N W  
Washington, D. C. 20554

REF: M M Docket # 95176

To Whom It May Concern,

Until recently I had a Second Audio receiver and now have a television with SAP. Is there anything in the future to block out the picture one receives when you have SAP on ?

I thank FCC for making this service available to one with impaired vision. I am receiving SAP through the Toledo Radio Reading Service.

Again thank you for providing this service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlyn Nowhouse".

Arlyn Nowhouse

cc: file  
Sight Center 1819 Canton Ave. Toledo OH 43624  
Gary Hoffman, Director of Scan

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MAR - 4 1996

February 28, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: 195-76 MM Docket  
Suggest Requirement, Audible Description for Visually  
Impaired for all Television Programming

Two organizations train volunteers who describe visual information amid what's happening during a movie or TV program. The service is expanding, and the TV industry is now building sets which automatically receive this spoken information. With movies you're "home free" with a VCR which is accessible. But unless television stations adapt their technology so this information can be transmitted, visually impaired people with the necessary equipment miss out on a lot. (Anyone with vision loss or especially total blindness loses up to 80% eighty per cent of information which comes to most people automatically.)

Closed captioning is available with PBS and commercial TV because the deaf population organized and pushed for it. That's what we blind need to do, but even with skillful lobbying we need support from those who can give it. We're still too logicsically few for our held-back financial gifts to PBS to make enough of a difference for it to be an effective statement. (Whenever I get a phone call from either of my two PBS stations, WOED-13 and WOEX-16, I say my money will wait till a year after successful reception of audible description in their programming.)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may seem incomplete and sometimes unwieldy, but it's at least a start. As people get better educated about what needs are out there and how they can be met intelligently, regulations will become tighter and clearer for the benefit of everyone in this country, not only people with disabilities. That's because as we get recognized as caring and able to meaningfully contribute, our needs will seem less frightening and make more overall commonsense.

But coming back down to earth now, we all know that without a push, human nature will resist changing from "business as usual". That's where guidelines fit in; by giving a deadline and insisting on something happening, you get PBS attention. Stations already offering the service can call themselves forward-thinking and justify better grants; others that haven't kept up with the times can fundraise for enough to make a meaningful start - then justify receiving their positive incentives too.

Thanks for accepting this dose of hyperoptimism as part of the testimony. Sorry for the late mailing; it's pretty hectic today!

Peggy Walsh (412) 683-6070  
200 Holmes Place, Apartment 3  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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List ABCDE

# the SIGHT CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind



1819 Canton Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43624  
419/241-1183  
1-800-624-8378

Serving the community since 1923

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**Barbara Walker**  
Consultant

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MAR 04 1996

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February 27, 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

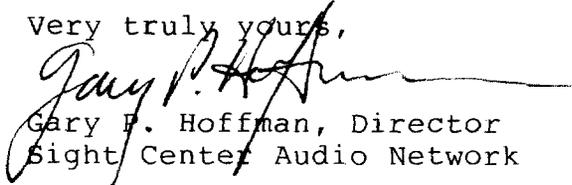
Please find enclosed a response to the FCC Notice of Inquiry,  
MM Docket #95-176.

This response is from the Sight Center Audio Network (SCAN), a radio reading service in Toledo, Ohio.

Founded in 1989, SCAN began service with only a few listeners, broadcasting over the SAP Channel of WBGU television, Channel 27, Bowling Green. SCAN now realizes more than 5,100 listeners on two public television SAP channels on a regular basis, many of whom indicate they listen to D.V.S. programming on a regular basis.

Also included is a letter from one SCAN listener.

Very truly yours,

  
Gary P. Hoffman, Director  
Sight Center Audio Network

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List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_



Make yours a lasting gift-remember The Toledo Society for the Blind in your will. The following clause is suggested for this provision: I give, devise, and bequeath to The Toledo Society for the Blind a non-profit organization, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate to be used to help preserve sight and serve persons who are blind and visually impaired.

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MAR 04 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

BEFORE THE  
Federal Communications Commission

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Closed Captioning and Video Description ) MM Docket No. 95-176  
of Video Programming )  
 )

COMMENTS OF THE SIGHT CENTER AUDIO NETWORK (SCAN), A RADIO  
READING SERVICE, IN RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF INQUIRY

The Sight Center Audio Network (SCAN) is a Radio Reading Service utilizing the Second Audio Program (SAP) channels of WGTE-TV, channel 30, Toledo, Ohio and WBGU-TV, channel 27, Bowling Green, Ohio. This service reaches approximately 5,100 registered listeners and 15,000 unregistered listeners (based on a formula provided by WGBH TV, Boston) throughout northwest Ohio and southeast lower Michigan. The service exists to bring print information to those who are otherwise unable to read, including the blind and visually impaired. SCAN is under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission. In support of its position, SCAN states:

1. SCAN is in full support of video description which would enable all individuals to fully utilize and appreciate information that may be currently presented in a visual manner only.

2. This information includes but is not limited to descriptions of setting and action, currently being utilized by some CPB funded Public Television programming. This information also includes that which may be otherwise presented in a scroll or roll fashion: emergency information, weather alerts and information and other information pertinent to the public welfare.

3. While supporting full video description, SCAN also requests that a broadcast spectrum be made available to it, and other services currently utilizing the SAP channels, to continue to bring local and regional print information to persons who may otherwise not have access to it.

4. Sub-carrier technology is a proven, cost-effective means of enabling persons who are disabled to maintain and increase self-esteem as they further their participation as equals in discussion of immediate information that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Local obituaries, advertisements, local news and other relevant information is not available to print handicapped individuals without a reading service. Without such a service, these persons would tend to become more isolated because of their disability.

5. SCAN supports the comments presented by the Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission in response to this Notice of Inquiry.

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MAR - 4 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

February 28, 1996

FCC  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554  
Re: MM95-176, FCC95-484

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a fax that we sent on February 28, 1996 to 202/418-2813. Please contact us if you would like further comments or information. We are hopeful that legislation on closed captioning will become a reality in the near future.

Sincerely,



Anne L. Flescher, partner  
Caption Services of Kansas  
& Teacher of deaf and  
hard-of-hearing students

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List ABCDE

RECEIVED

MAR - 4 1996

February 27, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

TO: The FCC and Mass Media Bureau re: MM95-176, inquiry on the the public interest benefits of closed captioning and video description

FROM: Anne Flescher, teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students and co-owner of Caption Services of Kansas  
Kala Patterson, former Media Specialist for the Hearing Impaired Program in Lawrence, KS, and presently co-owner of Caption Services of Kansas

RE: MM95-176, and FCC95-484

We are writing to respond to your request for public comments on the issues of closed captioning and video description. Our response will deal only with closed captioning, as our knowledge of and experience with video description is too limited for us to herein make comments.

It is in the public interest to have all video programming, both broadcast and non-broadcast video, captioned. Captioning is good for everyone. It, obviously, is necessary for the 8.6% of the general population (age 3 and older) who have some degree of hearing loss. They are unable to receive a complete message without captioning. It is also extremely important in teaching young children and those youth and adult alike who are learning English as a second language. Captioning provides necessary information in difficult listening environments, where there is too much noise to hear the auditory message. Due to the Decoder Circuitry Act of 1993, closed caption decoders are now in millions of homes. Unfortunately, there is still a large void in captioned programming on network, cable and public broadcast stations.

It is our experience, through our work in the public school and through the experiences we've had in our private business, that captioning will never be universal unless it is legislated. Let me address the educational video production market to start. We in the Lawrence Public Schools have a commitment to equal access for all of our students. I have been a teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students there for 15 years, and 4 years prior to that in Michigan. There are many students in public schools with hearing loss, some of whom use sign language and some of whom do not (they are "auditory/oral" or "auditory/verbal" and use residual hearing and speechreading skills to receive information). About 4 years ago, we noticed that the use of videos in classroom instruction was becoming overwhelming. And, that even though many of those videos were newly-produced, only about 5% of our videos were able to be purchased captioned. Most of our students are auditory/oral, depend on visual cues for receiving information. Uncaptioned videos were inaccessible to them. We began calling producers to find out if they had captioned versions of these videos, and generally to visit with them about captioning. Much to our dismay, although most producers were very interested in captioning, this is what we discovered:

1. Most producers did not even know what captioning was.
2. They had received no information on the ADA and access issues regarding videos.
3. Most producers wanted to learn more, and provide captioning, but they said that the cost was prohibitive to them.

At that point, in 1993, we as a school district, decided to pursue obtaining our own captioning equipment, so that we could provide accessibility to our students. It was obvious to us, after these producer conversations and talking with The Caption Center as well, that our only immediate answer to this problem could come from within our own school district. So, after pursuing a grant from the Sertoma Foundation, we began our own Lawrence Captioning Project. After 3 ½ years, we have captioned over 400 videos for our own students' use. Our school district has approximately 10,000 students, and approximately 25 of those are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Our school district has funded a full-time person to caption videos, and also allocates a part of my teaching time to supervise this program.

It is wonderful that, through our school captioning project, we have been able to provide for our students. However, in many ways this is a disconcerting situation, because:

1. We are providing only for our small number of students.
2. We are legally, unable to share our work with other school districts.
3. Producers constantly try to pressure us into providing them, free-of-charge, with our captions in return for their permission to caption. It is our policy to never do this since we are funded with public tax dollars.
4. We should **never** have been put in the situation of captioning for our students, as it is the producers' responsibility to provide this accommodation. They are the ones who are profiting from their productions.
5. Many educational videos are copyblocked, and we are therefore, unable to caption them.
6. Public Law 94-142 (now I.D.E.A.) clearly provides for equal access to the education setting for **all** students in the least-restrictive situation. That is simply impossible without providing captioned educational videos.
7. There are entire courses being designed and offered in our schools nation-wide, that are video-driven and and totally inaccessible to students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

To illustrate our point, let us give you an example of the captioning practices of one educational video producer. There is a multi-billion dollar entertainment and educational producer who captions most of their entertainment videos, but none of their educational videos. In fact, they have recently bought a series of videos for educational distribution that was captioned, and they are marketing it uncaptioned. They removed the captions! They have been made aware of the need for captioning by those of us in the public schools, as well as by their own sales staff. When we called to talk to them about this situation, their representative told us that, after discussing the captioning issues with others in the organization, it was decided that it was too costly to caption their educational videos and that their first priority was to add Spanish to their existing videos. This is simply ludicrous, as this company has profits in the billions annually. They know that they can still sell their products to 90% of the educational institutions in the U.S., and are willing to sacrifice the other 10%. Their videos are totally inaccessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing students, but no one is able to make them accountable for their actions.

Our school district, as well as others, have refused to deal with this company. You may think that

but no one is able to make them accountable for their actions.

Our school district, as well as others, have refused to deal with this company. You may think that this is what will have an impact on video producers--the customer will refuse to purchase and, therefore, the producer will caption. Universal captioning will never be obtained in this manner. It does not now have an impact and it never will. As long as producers can still sell to the majority of their customers, the few of us who refuse to buy will not be able to impact the greater goal of universal captioning, nor should it be our responsibility to do so.

The cost of closed captioning is minimal compared to the cost of producing a video. Video production costs can run anywhere from \$500 to \$2000 per video minute. Captioning can run anywhere from about \$13.00 to \$50.00 per video minute. Quality captioning services are available and affordable. Caption Services of Kansas has never turned away a customer, or failed to provide satisfactory captioning services.

We formed Caption Services of Kansas out of our commitment to provide quality captioning at a more affordable cost. Although we market our services to a broad market, our main focus has been working with educational producers. We are educators and care about equal access to an education for all students. Although our captioning prices are less than many, our quality is equal to or better than any captioning on the market. We receive no outside funding through any sources, and started our business with a loan from the federal Small Business Administration. We talk with producers daily who tell us that, until someone mandates them to caption, they will not spend the money to do so. This is truly an economic issue.

Government funds have been given to organizations like The Caption Center and the National Captioning Institute. Those two organizations have been excellent resources to many of us and have developed much of the technology available today in the area of captioning. It is important that, agencies receiving federal funds for research and the development of technology, be held accountable to share that information with the public and private sector. Government-funded research and technology are paid for by all of us in the private and public sector alike, and needs to be fully available to all.

In order to promote the continued and expanded availability of closed captioning, we would recommend the following measures be taken:

1. Passing legislation that mandates all video production in the United States be captioned. This includes television programming, as well as non-broadcast video production for educational and informational purposes.
2. Provide funding support for producers and television stations.
3. Disseminate information to producers, television stations and consumers about captioning responsibilities.
4. Non-regulation of captioning companies. The market will determine the viability

of individual captioning companies by acceptance of high-quality captioning or rejection of poor-quality captioning. Captioning is a highly-technical, highly-skilled, labor-intensive process. Only a small number of people have the expertise and capabilities to produce quality captioning. In our experience, the market does a fairly good job of determining the quality of captioning produced today.

The current availability of closed captioned programming on major television networks is incomplete. It is unacceptable that all network programming is not captioned at this point in time. The technology is available to do so. However, the real problem with lack of captioning is with public television and cable networks. Captioning needs to be mandated, and backed with significant funding for the public television networks. The truly beneficial programming going out over the airwaves is coming from public television, and these are the stations that really do not have the funds to caption all of their programming. We feel that captioning is affordable to the major television networks, as their profit margins indicate that they have enough funds to provide total accessibility.

We are hoping for a pro-active government policy in the area of captioning. Please contact us if more information or input is desired.

Anne Flescher & Kala Patterson  
Caption Services of Kansas  
1118 E. 1600 Rd., P.O. Box 3593  
Lawrence, KS 66046  
913/842-9993 (voice)  
913/842-9994 (voice/TTY)

95-176

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MAR - 4 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

February 27, 1996

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

"In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming (FCC 95-484)."

Dear Madam or Sir:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

I am a United States Citizen, born Deaf to Deaf parents, feel equal to anybody on this Earth, but when I turn on the television set, I am dismayed to find out that most television programs are not captioned, thus excluding me from the mainstream. When I go to video stores, I go directly to the new releases, mainly because most of the popular new releases have captions installed in them. I am, however, unable to rent classics, old black and white films because most of them are not captioned.

I will not elaborate in this letter just how important it is to include every citizen in the United States to the information presented in every kind of media. I will, however, stress what provisions you, as the FCC, can take to provide equal access for everyone to the most excellent invention ever, the television set.

I would like to see all television programs captioned. According to the National Captioning Institute, it costs \$400 to caption a 30 minute program, as compared with \$100,000 to install sound for the same 30 minute program.

I would like to see all videos, new and old, captioned so I can then enjoy every kind of movie and be able to engage in discussions with everyone else. I can feel equal to my hearing boyfriend and that he would not have to try to interpret for me what the characters in the movie is saying.

I would like to go to movie theaters and be able to choose whichever movie to watch instead of waiting several months to watch a new release because the captions are not installed yet.

I would like to be able to buy a television set and have it already programmed to have captions turned on once I turn on the T.V. set.

I would like to have cable T.V. so I can have a clear picture and to be able to watch movies, unfortunately most of the networks on cable do not have 100% captioning in their movies. Some have just 50%; more, even less.

I should point out that this will make a huge impact on education. When children listen to the T.V. program, they would read the captions as well. They will learn how to read, while listening.

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Thus, this will lessen, hopefully, illiteracy in America.

I sincerely hope you consider what I have written and make lives of the Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing a lot better.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Nasukiewicz

95-176

RECEIVED

MAR 4 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

2849 Church Walk  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
February 28, 1996

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commissions  
Notify of Inquiry 95-484  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sir:

I have been deaf since the age of two. I cannot read lips on television without closed captioned because the camera does not always face the actors'/ actresses' lips and changes too fast to other pictures.

I rely on Closed Captioning (CC) to watch local news (NBC 4) at 5:30 a.m., 12 Noon, 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 o'clock. I am unable to listen to radio; therefore I miss weather reports, special reports, traffic, etc. Hearing people can get the news and weather reports from radio. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing rely on T.V. news with CC for vital information.

There are list of negative comments:

- 1) The Fairfax County Media Cable should not charge the deaf/hard of hearing full monthly service payment because there are not many shows having closed captioned on cable channels. The service charge should be at least 25% off the regular fee.

The Cable have a tty/tdd (telecommunication device for the deaf) but only answering machine on all the time, we have to wait for them to call us back, sometimes an hour or next day. It is not right that we do not have the same access as your hearing customers.

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