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JUNE 10 1998

95-176

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act

I urge you to adopt the Access Board Section 255 guidelines for manufacturers to achieve access in the design of their products.

I work for an organization that serves persons with disabilities. I have had many comments by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing about the difficulties they have had using voice mail and the interactive telephone systems (where you have to push a button to get information).

Sometimes the telephone relay operators for the deaf tell the deaf callers that the voice mail and menus go too quickly for them to type in the information to the TTY of the deaf caller.

Persons who are blind or visually impaired who cannot see the buttons on their phones also cannot use the interactive phone menus where they have to quickly push the buttons.

If these services are not required to be accessible, a large segment of the population will be excluded from participating in day to day activities and even from employment.

Therefore, these services must be required to be accessible.

Sincerely,

Susan Eleoff

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