

Proceeding: IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 255 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AC Record 1 of 1

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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REABODE

1. Access Board Guidelines

I am urge you the FCC to adopt the Access Board Section 255 guidelines for both manufacturers and service providers. These guidelines are needed to provide clear guidance on the obligations of companies to make their products and services accessible.

Why telecommunications access is important because of

I am Deaf and I need it for my job in order to communicate with my boss who does not know how to use American Sign Language and I got promotion in my job because of my performance and accessibility that are provided, My family is hearing and it help to provide to access to my family members and friends, etc.

It would help if you can describe how the denial of such access has affected you.

2. Readily Achievable

The FCC wants to allow companies to be able to consider whether they will be able to recover the costs of providing access, and the extent to which they will be able to market an accessible product. These factors may allow a company to get out of its access obligations merely because the market for certain accessible products may be smaller. This goes against the whole purpose of Section 255. Section 255 was intended to require access to people with disabilities because market forces alone were not enough to ensure that access. Allowing a company to consider whether it will recover the costs of achieving such access has never been permitted under other disability laws.

Many companies are more than willing to invest in dolby sound system or THX sound system for their movies and any kind of media and often it cost more than 500 dollars while providing accessible items for Deaf people to enjoy the same accessibility only cost under 500 dollars. Therefore, it is not reasonable to put confidence or faith in companies for making their own decisions of whether to make their marketable items accessible. The companies should be required to do that and build that cost in any developing materials they want to market and it can be tax deductible so it should have no bearing or harmful affect on their business operations. Its a matter of human dignity to provide accessible to citizens of USA in order to exercise the true spirit of democracy. What is democracy if citizens could not exercise its full rights?

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Applicant Name: Dr. Fred Fay

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List A B C D E

Justice For All

jfa@mailbot.com

Dear Colleagues in Justice:

We of Justice for All are absolutely delighted that our Chairperson Becky Ogle has been appointed Executive Director of the Presidential Task Force on the Employment of Adults with disabilities. (Official announcement follows.)

Becky has been an effective advocate in the Congress, in the White House, in the states.

She has been a super effective soldier in the trenches of justice, playing a leading role in the battles for ADA, universal health care, a responsible budget and much more. She had been a powerful politician for justice, leading the fight for disability rights in the elections of '92, '94, '96.

Most important of all she has reached out to the grassroots of our movement personally and through thousands of telephone calls and computer communications. She has listened and she has stood firm with us on the issues of the moment and on the great principles of equality, independence and empowerment.

We know that she will continue to play the same role as the Executive Director of this landmark Presidential Task Force.

Please join us in congratulating President Clinton. Please join us in congratulating Task Force Chair Alexis Herman, Vice Chair Tony Coelho and all connected with this dynamic initiative. Please join us in congratulating Beautiful Becky!

This is democracy at its best - government by the people. Let us unite to support Becky and the Task Force in their crusade to create decent jobs for decent pay for all Americans in the 21st century.

We love you. Lead on.

Justin and Yoshiko Dart Fred Fay Mark Smith Fred Pelka

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USDL: 98-269
CONTACT: BENNETT GAMBLE FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
PHONE: (202) 219-8211 x107
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1998

SECRETARY OF LABOR ALEXIS HERMAN NAMES BECKY OGLE
TO BE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DISABILITIES TASK FORCE

Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman today announced
that she has appointed Rebecca (Becky) Ogle to serve

as the Executive Director of the Presidential Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities.

"Becky is a terrific manager, coalition-builder, and strategist. We are fortunate that she has agreed to run the day-to-day operations of the Task Force," said Secretary Herman, who also chairs the Task Force. "The President charged this Task Force with a plain and direct mission --- design a national strategy to make equality of opportunity, full participation, inclusion, and economic self-sufficiency realities for all 30 million working-age Americans with disabilities. Becky Ogle will help us make that happen."

President Clinton created the Task Force on March 13, 1998 when he signed Executive Order No. 13078 on the employment of adults with disabilities. The Executive Order directs the Task Force "to create a coordinated and aggressive national policy to bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at rate that is as close as possible to that of the general adult population." Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman is the Chair of the Task Force. Tony Coelho, Chairman of the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities, serves as Vice-Chair. Other members of the Task Force are the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Chair of the National Council on Disability.

Becky Ogle is a long-time and effective advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. She began her involvement with government as the Director of Governmental Affairs & Advocacy for the Spina Bifida Association of America. Ms. Ogle has also served as the Director of Project: AccessAbility for the National Association for Medical Equipment Services and led several legislative and public education campaigns relating to important issues the Task Force will address, including health care, accessibility, and assistive technologies. Ms. Ogle has also served twice as the Disability Access Coordinator for President Clinton's Inaugural Committees.

U.S. Labor Department news releases are accessible on the Internet at: <http://www.dol.gov>. The information in this news release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. TDD Message Referral Phone: 1-800-326-2577, Voice phone: (202) 219-7316.

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Fred Fay
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Justice-For-All Moderator

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Applicant Name: Ricki Cook, Director, NC Assistive Technology Project

Proceeding Name: 96-198 Author Name:

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June 23, 1998

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

Dear Sir:

The NC Assistive Technology Project provides information to people of all ages and all disabilities about equipment that assists them in becoming more independent. Access to telecommunications is essential for people with visual, hearing, and physical disabilities because it enables them to be interactive, contributing members of society. Systems also must be accessible to insure the safety of the individual who must communicate in crisis situations. For these reasons, I am writing to urge adoption of the Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board (Access Board) Section 255 guidelines for accessibility in telecommunications equipment. These guidelines issued last year by the Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board suggest ways for manufacturers to achieve access in product design. The guidelines also require accessible product information and instructions for people with disabilities. The accessibility law stated in Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act was necessary in the first place because the telecommunications market was not responsive to the needs of people with disabilities. When considering whether the access is readily achievable, I urge that the FCC apply the definition of readily achievable as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Enhanced services such as voice mail, electronic mail, interactive voice response systems using telephone prompts and audiotext information have become commonplace. Although the FCC's proposed rules do not cover "enhanced" services, they need to be included under Section 255. Excluding these services from Section 255 will keep people with disabilities, such as those who are deaf or hard of hearing and those with motor limitations, from accessing new, widely used technological advances.

Finally, enforcing section 255 with a complaint process is essential. Telecommunications companies, both manufacturers and providers, need to have contacts that are accessible to persons with disabilities. I am in support of proposals by the FCC that there be no filing fee or time limit for filing complaints. Submission of complaints needs to be by any accessible means.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Ricki Cook
Project Director