



November 9, 2014

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication

**CG Docket No. 03-123**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, November 7, 2014 the National Association of the Deaf sent the following email to Chairman Tom Wheeler and copied Maria Kirby of the Chairman's Office, Kris Monteith and Karen Peltz Strauss of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, and Gregory Hlibok of the Disability Rights Office.

*Dear Chairman Wheeler,*

*I am writing to you on behalf of the National Association of the Deaf to let you know that the deaf and hard of hearing community is very concerned about the current IP Relay situation. We have received many emails and calls from extremely concerned individuals who depend on IP relay services and are anxious for answers.*

*As you know, Purple Communications is leaving IP Relay and has informed the community that they are leaving because the Commission has required them to monitor the content of IP Relay calls. Consequently, many of our consumers are asking why the FCC would diminish their choice of IP relay service to only one provider and would require an invasion of their privacy during such calls.*

*There is a lot of confusion in our community and we need the Commission to clarify the situation and respond to these concerns. We are certain that the Commission does not allow such invasion of privacy but need your office to assure the public of the sacrosanct confidential nature of private telecommunication calls. We also hope that your office can clarify why only one provider remains after there used to be five a year ago.*

*It has also come to our attention that the sole remaining provider, Sprint, may not be able to quickly meet the diverse needs of DeafBlind consumers who have come to depend on Purple's system as their sole means of telecommunications. Consequently, we ask the Commission to*

*grant an extension of Purple's IP relay services until Sprint has demonstrated that it can accommodate the needs and volume of consumers currently served by Purple's IP Relay.*

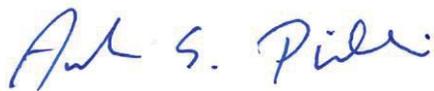
*We know you are a strong supporter of consumer rights and a champion of accessibility for people with disabilities. While there obviously are other considerations, we ask that the Commission ensure access is made available to these populations without interruption.*

*Thank you for all that you do for our community.*

*Sincerely,*

*Andrew Phillips  
Policy Counsel  
National Association of the Deaf*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew S. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew S. Phillips, Esq.  
Policy Counsel