



**March 13, 2015**

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING (ECFS)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

*In the Matters of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, CG Docket No. 03-123; Misuse of Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service, CG Docket No. 13-24; FCC Announces the Establishment of the Disability Advisory Committee and Solicits Nominations for Membership, DA 14-1737; Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements, PS Docket No. 07-114; and Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals, CG Docket No. 10-210*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to inform you that on February 25, 2015, representatives from the National Association for State Relay Administration (NASRA) [Brenda Kelly-Frey (Chair, MD), Lori Cielinski (Secretary, WY), Rochelle Garrow (Vice-Chair, MN) and Eric Jeschke (Treasurer, PA)] and the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA) [James Forstall (Chair, FL), Sabrina Fields (Vice-Chair, MD) and Sarah Maheswaran (Secretary, MN)] met with FCC representatives Gregory Hlibok (Chief, Disability Rights Office), Karen Peltz-Strauss (Deputy Bureau Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau), Bob Aldrich (Legal Advisor), Elliot Greenwald (Disability Rights Office), Elaine Gardner (Disability Rights Office), Darryl Cooper (Disability Rights Office), and Caitlin Vogus (Disability Rights Office).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss updates on the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP); the IP CTS registration process; IP Relay; the Disability Advisory Committee; reporting complaints and Speech-to-Speech Video Assisted Service.

The Commission reported their plans to have a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the NDBEDP. Their goal is collect feedback on how to improve the program and make it permanent.

The Commission intends to issue a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on registration requirements for IP CTS. Under the current rules providers are only required to get a self-certification from users when they register for IP CTS. The providers (except Purple) have informed the Commission that they are continuing to get third party certification in anticipation that they will be required to do so when the IP CTS rules are released.

The Commission is exploring the option of the IP CTS funding to stay with the Interstate TRS fund and the obligation for managing the program shift to the Equipment Distribution Programs (EDP). EDPs already provide assessments to individuals whether they are in need of a captioned phone or amplified phone for effective communication.

The Commission requested NASRA and TEDPA to provide criteria for a third-party certifier. It was also requested to provide the attrition rate from providers and state programs.

The Commission provided an update on the status of IP Relay. Since Purple left the market, the minutes for IP Relay services have decreased significantly. The Commission requested what states would recommend for deafblind users using IP Relay.

The Disability Advisory Committee's first meeting will be March 17, 2015. The Commission will provide a live feed posted on their website. In the afternoon, the participants will breakout into subcommittees which will include: Relay, Video, Communications and Emergency. The full agenda will be released a few weeks prior to the meeting.

Members on the NASRA and TEDPA Boards requested the Commission to create a standard template to file Relay complaints on an annual basis. Brenda Kelly-Fry, NASRA Chair and Greg Hlibok will develop this.

Three states have introduced a new Speech-to-Speech (STS) Video Service. A consumer can use Skype to place a call through the Relay operator. The intent is for the Relay operator to reflect the caller's intent more accurately by using video. The Commission will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to gather more information on this service.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully Submitted,

*NASRA: Brenda Kelly-Frey, Rochelle Garrow, Eric Jeschke, Lori Cielinski*

*TEDPA: James Forstall, Sabrina Fields, Kevin Steffy, Sarah Maheswaran*

cc: Via Electronic Mail  
Gregory Hlibok  
Karen Peltz-Strauss  
Elaine Gardner  
Eliot Greenwald  
Darryl Cooper  
Caitlin Vogus