

May 27, 2015

**Via ECFS**

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

**Re: *Ex Parte* Letter in CG Docket Nos. 10-51 and 03-123**

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Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 23, 2015, Claude Stout, Executive Director, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (“TDI”), sent the attached e-mail regarding recent ex parte meetings held on May 8, 2015 with Maria Kirby, Legal Advisor to Chairman Wheeler;<sup>1</sup> on May 14, 2015 with Travis Litman, Legal Advisor, and Jennifer Thompson, Special Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel; Rebekah Goodheart, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn; and Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Ajit Pai;<sup>2</sup> and on May 15, 2015 with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and his Legal Advisor Amy Bender<sup>3</sup> discussing a proposal for a skills-based routing trial in Video Relay Service. We respectfully request that the attached e-mail be included in the record.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket Nos. 10-51, 03-123, Ex Parte Letter of TDI, NAD, and RID (filed May 12, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> See *Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket Nos. 10-51, 03-123, Ex Parte Letter of TDI, NAD, and RID (filed May 18, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> See *Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket Nos. 10-51, 03-123, Ex Parte Letter of TDI, NAD, and RID (filed May 18, 2015).

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
May 27, 2015

**Morgan Lewis**

Page 2

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tamar E. Finn

Tamar E. Finn

*Counsel for TDI*

cc (via e-mail):

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Maria Kirby  
Rebekah Goodheart  
Louis Peraertz  
Priscilla Argeris  
Travis Litman  
Jennifer Thompson  
Nicholas Degani  
Brendan Carr  
Amy Bender  
Erin McGrath  
Kris Monteith  
Gregory Hlibok  
Karen Peltz Strauss

From: **Claude Stout - TDI Executive Director** <[cstout@tdiforaccess.org](mailto:cstout@tdiforaccess.org)>

Date: Sat, May 23, 2015 at 5:46 AM

Subject: Thanks for the action you took during the open Commission meeting last Thursday - May 21, 2015

To: Tom Wheeler <[tom.wheeler@fcc.gov](mailto:tom.wheeler@fcc.gov)>, Mignon Clyburn <[mignon.clyburn@fcc.gov](mailto:mignon.clyburn@fcc.gov)>, [jessica.rosenworcel@fcc.gov](mailto:jessica.rosenworcel@fcc.gov), Ajit Pai <[ajit.pai@fcc.gov](mailto:ajit.pai@fcc.gov)>, [michael.orielly@fcc.gov](mailto:michael.orielly@fcc.gov)

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Dear Chairman Wheeler, and the four Commissioners at the FCC - Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O'Rielly,

First of all, I want to take the moment to thank you "the fabulous five" for last Thursday's official Commission action on two items - extending the national deaf blind equipment distribution program, and assuring that the visually disabled population gets accessible emergency information in video programming by extending the rules for emergency alerts to "second screens," including tablets, smartphones, laptops, and similar devices.

I regret that I couldn't be with you in person for last Thursday's open meeting. I had to prepare for a Board meeting that will take place next week in Minneapolis. Please know that I was with you "in spirit." You have continued over the years o move forward initiative by initiative on our access needs, and we are deeply grateful for your support. Thanks much, too to the key people at the FCC such as Kris, Karen, Greg, and other staff from the Disability Rights Office as well as the rest of the CGB.

Secondly, thanks for having your Legal Assistants (and also Commissioner O'Rielly himself) meet with us last week on the proposal for a year's preparation and experiment for skills-based routing in Video Relay Service from the six VRS providers which the Consumer Groups and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf fully support. We ask for your full consideration and support. All we are asking for is to get a better calling experience when we access Video Relay Service, and vice versa, when our hearing contacts call us. After all, TRS is a dual party relay service, and it must benefit both parties, not one or the other on each call we make or receive. Building on the recent GAO report with its findings and recommendations, we look forward to working with the Commission (those on the eighth flloor, and with appropriate offices throughout the FCC bureaucracy) closely to ensure that we have in place up-to-date quality

standards that will ensure we have the "state of the art" calling experience with any one form of relay service.

Last, but not least, here's wishing you all a great Memorial Day weekend. We will be thinking of our past and present soldiers who have fought gallantly and perished on the battlefield so that we have the freedoms we sometimes do take for granted in America. We are so thankful you have consistently made key regulatory action for our access needs.

Sincerely,

Claude Stout

Executive Director

Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)