

60001333629.txt

The future of technological services network should require multiple cable providers in each market for competition and to prevent cable monopolies. Due to the current rulings by the FCC, cable companies do not have proper oversight which allows unregulated cable pricing which discriminates the elderly, retired or disabled military veterans and individuals receiving permanent SSDI benefits from the SSA. An example of this is currently taking place in Tangipahoa Parish Louisiana, where a disabled person receiving only \$831/mo in SSDI benefits is paying 20% of his income to have cable service and internet through Charter Communications. Beginning December 12th, his service fees will increase to \$180 taking approximately 23% of his income. Even if he reduces his package the prices still increase with extended basic and internet to the current price he is now paying. Charter refuses to allow him to change his package to extended basic and internet at a current promotion that is being offered consisting of extended basic for \$59.99/mo and \$29.99/mo for internet. This promotional pricing does not have a "new customers only" requirement; however, Charter refuses to honor the promotion. This is a perfect example why the industry needs multiple cable providers in each market or regulation either through the FCC or granted powers to the LFA