

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I want to submit my comments for expanding the proposed rules and increasing the hours for video description on broadcast and Cable TV networks. I appreciate that the CVAA included video description, and was very happy that they reinstated this mandate again in 2012. Having video description now is very beneficial for me as a totally blind person because now I don't have to rely on someone else that's sighted explain to me what is happening on the screen. Because of the additional voiceover track, I can now understand what's going on during a TV program and know what the characters are doing.

Here are my comments:

1. I request that the current number of hours for broadcasting video description on TV be expanded from 50 hours to 87.5 hours per quarter.
2. I also request that the number of channels offering video description be expanded to 5 broadcast networks as well as to 10 non broadcast networks for Cable and satellite.
3. If a cable channel drops out of the top 10, video description should still continue to be provided for that particular channel. This will ensure that description is still offered on that channel, and is continued for the same programs that previously had it before. Consumers will also appreciate description being offered on that channel because they expected this in the past.
4. Please eliminate the requirement that a cable channel has to be available in 50 percent of households before description is offered. This way, more blind and visually impaired users can watch the same shows with description on that channel no matter where they are located.
5. Please require TV channels and networks to provide customer service reps who can educate blind and visually impaired consumers and other people about video description as well as how they can access it on their TV, cable box or satellite receiver. It would also be great if TV remotes were accessible including having speech output so

a blind person can access the menus and use the remote independently like anyone else.

6. I think offering video on demand programming with description would be great especially for consumers that have cable and premium networks.

7. It would also be very beneficial if TV commercials on some of the networks can include description as well. There are so many commercials now that are extremely visual compared to ones that aired 20 and 30 years ago. Most TV advertisements now just have music only or even very little dialog. So, I have no idea what is visually happening and no clue of what is being advertised. If video description were added to some of the more popular commercials, this would be very helpful for me and other blind and visually impaired consumers.

I know the FCC was originally planning to expand the amount of video description hours this year and the mandate was going to start this July. Now the mandate has been pushed back until 2018. I would like to request that the mandate start earlier than July 2018 if possible. This expansion has been long overdue, and the cost and burden for producers and networks offering video description is very minimal. I would appreciate if the start date for the new proposed requirements can begin as soon as possible please.

Thank you for letting me express my comments about this important issue. The sooner video description is expanded and provided on more broadcast and cable networks, the better!

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Zodrow