

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** MI Council of the Blind/VI [mcbvi@iserv.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 11:09 PM

**To:** acb

**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Gloria Martinez

369 Merrill Ave.

Muskegon, MI 49442

I enjoy watching and descriptive video makes this activity much more enjoyable.

**Anne Fesh**

**From:** MI Council of the Blind/VI [mcbvi@iserv.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 11:14 PM

**To:** acb

**Subject:** I support descriptive video

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Caszine White

3020 Peck Street

Muskegon, MI 49444

I am an elderly blind person. Watching television is one of the activities I enjoy. Descriptive video opens this world to me again and makes this activity much more fulfilling.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Philip Hallford [philipha@concentric.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2000 2:59 AM  
**To:** Info@ACB.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

FCC:  
Philip Hallford  
2965 Mission Blvd. Num. 3e  
San Diego CA 92109.  
I am totally blind and support the expanded use of descriptive video.  
This can happen under "MM Docket number 99-339."

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** T M [The\_Typist@webtv.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2000 3:43 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** Need Help

Hi,

I am blind in my left eye and deaf in my left ear, among other disabilities. I find it difficult to find a good job and keep one when I do. I am looking for any advice or help that you may have.

Thank You in advance.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Charis Austin [charis@iserv.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2000 4:33 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description

My name is Charis Austin, 2426 Thornwood, S.W., Wyoming, Michigan 49509. I am the Secretary of the Michigan Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind. This message relates to:

video MM Docket No.99-339.

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, I want to thank the members of the FCC for allowing blind people to become a fullpartner in the television arena. The Michigan Council of the Blind supports video description rules. The Descriptive Video Service is very important to us.

Charis Austin, Secretary  
Michigan Council of the Blind

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Byron Smith [byron@indiana.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2000 9:54 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Dear FCC,

My name is Byron K Smith. I live at 4300 E. Morningside Drive in Bloomington, Indiana. My ZIP code is 47408-3149. I am totally blind.

I support your proposed rules for descriptive video (MM Docket No. 99-399).

I want to be a full partner in the national television experience. I cannot do that until description is included in television programming, when appropriate. I should not have to rely on sighted people to tell me what I'm missing when I watch TV. Deaf people have closed captioning as an accessibility service. I want to have descriptive video.

For several years descriptive video has been part of several series on PBS. It should be there on other networks and cable channels. With the arrival of digital TV, it is now much easier for descriptive video to exist.

Sincerely,

Byron K Smith

"All of us can truly be  
Known for our abilities."

Byron K Smith, Producer  
Division of Broadcast and Electronic Media  
IU Office of Communications and Marketing  
Phone: (812) 855-9323  
E-mail: byron@indiana.edu  
Fax: (812) 855-7002 -- ATTN Byron

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** arklab [arklab@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 2:19 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

As director of an agency that works with hundreds of blind and visually impaired individuals, all ages, I can attest to the positive reception for descriptive video. The DVS videos through WGBH Boston, the descriptive motion pictures, the descriptive "live" theater offered in Boston, all of this has opened new areas of enjoyment for the blind. We hope that the television and cable industries will be encouraged to add descriptive to their programming so that all TV will be more accessible to the blind and visually impaired. Arthur Kelts, Lowell Association for the Blind, Lowell, MA

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Parmenter, Bonnie [b\_parmenter@hphood.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 2:37 PM  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

I am sending this for Martha Parmenter, 401 Essex Street, Apt 226, Beverly MA 01915. She is blind and supports the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No99-339.

Thank you for forwarding this to the appropriate person.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Ross Winetsky [winetsky@concentric.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 2:57 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

To: FCC  
March 20, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a vocational rehabilitation counselor and a musician who is blind. I support the measure for the FCC to increase and expand descriptive audio for video, across the board, on television. Although the blind community may be relatively small, the United States has committed to the community of people with disabilities, to make media accessible. Historically, creating greater access has helped increase profits for business. People who are blind purchase items, eat out and form opinions as do people with site. Descriptive video allows us to be an equal partner in the area of mass communication and entertainment.

I am aware that the National Federation of the Blind does not support this measure. It is unfortunate that they have taken this position because they represent only a portion of people who are blind. There are many blind people in this country who are not affiliated with any blind organizations who justifiably want to be a full participant in life in America.

I urge you to expand on descriptive audio for television.

Sincerely,  
Ross Winetsky  
198 North Cypress Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
Telephone: 408 -- 615 -- 7677

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Woody Anna Dresner [adresner@nbp.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 7:25 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing because I support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339. I have been blind since birth, and have found audio descriptions helpful and informative when they have been available. Descriptions have enhanced my knowledge of our culture and the world in general by providing information I would otherwise not have had access to. They are also very helpful to people with learning disabilities, who cannot read the captions which accompany programs such as documentaries and convey useful information.

I applaud your efforts to promote video description.

Sincerely,  
Anna Dresner  
Publishing Associate  
National Braille Press

3833 Dalewood Ave., SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
319 247-1411

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Suzie M Yost [s-yost@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 7:30 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

My name is Suzie from New Orleans, La. I'm blind and feel having descriptive video on television would make it a lot more interesting and easy to follow. Many times I find it takes so much concentration to follow a movie I just turn it off. Therefore, I support descriptive video under "mm docket number 99-339" Thanks.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Margo Volterra [mnv@world.std.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 7:53 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Dear ACB,

As one who is "Sight Afflicted" (sighted), I am writing to support descriptive video for two basic reasons.

1. I like having the added description. Not only does it augment and enhance my viewing (as even sighted folks do miss things) it also allows me to multi-task and not feel I have to keep my eyes glued on the screen.
2. It cuts down on my having to interpret for my significant other, who is blind.

Sincerely,  
Margo Volterra

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Diane Dobson [dobson@islandnet.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 8:21 PM  
**To:** Info@acb.org  
**Subject:** DVS

I support discriptive video as a blind person feel it would make my life more interesting.

<Diane Dobson - Have an accessable day>

<Coming: From an Island in the Pacific>

## Anne Fesh

**From:** Debbie C. Grubb [debbiec@concentric.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 10:17 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

Debbie Grubb  
2325 Elliston Place  
Apartment 408  
Nashville, TN 37203  
Phone: (615) 321-2390  
E-Mail: [debbiec@concentric.net](mailto:debbiec@concentric.net)

I am an American who is blind. Since I have known the mind and heart opening joys of video description for over a decade now, it is my honor to write in support of the FCC's proposed rules requiring limited availability of descriptive video services, MM Docket No.99-339.

Americans with hearing impairments have had the liberating privilege of viewing closed caption television broadcasts for 20 years. Closed captioning is now as much a part of the world of television as are advertising and credits.

The need of individuals who are blind and severely visually impaired to access the visual component of television broadcasts equals the need of individuals with hearing impairments to access the audio component of these programs.

Imagine opening an unexpected package. Beneath all the protective tissue paper, you find a beautifully leather bound first edition of your most beloved novel. Further imagine your dismay to see only dialogue. All the flawlessly painted scenes, costumes, movements, looks, body language exchanges and little actions that are momentous to the movement of the story have been excised and thrown into a recycle bin from which nothing can ever be recovered. Imagine your anticipation as the time draws near for your favorite star to appear in a brand new show, or the start of your favorite sports playoff or your need to know if a severe weather watch might effect you or your loved ones. Your television set sounds forth in fantastic living stereophonic sound; but the picture that finds its way behind your eyes is a blur equalling nothingness. Without the kindness of family and friends who are sometimes available and often are not, , this is the scenario that we as people who are visually impaired face every day.

The fiscal notes attached to closed captioned, video described motion pictures and the programs that National Public Television has broadcast with both closed captioning and video description prove that it costs less than a penny per person per episode to make both the audio and video components) of broadcasts available to the millions of Americans who will benefit from them.

Is not the purpose of television to communicate information via sound and picture? Is it not often the case that television gives credence to the old adage, "A picture is worth a thousand words? Give to us access to the pictures as you have given to individuals who are hearing impaired access to the words. Although interpretation is involved in the portraying of pictures to those of us who cannot interpret them for ourselves in a way

that printing the spoken word is not, do not the unspoken mandates of both art and television to communicate make this necessary pictorial word painting essentially fair and right?

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Koors, Don J [DKoors@fssa.state.in.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 3:08 PM  
**To:** 'info@acb.org'  
**Subject:** we support descriptive video

Dear FCC Members:

We support the action you have already taken in reference to "descriptive video." We do understand that some individuals and/or organizations oppose "descriptive video" either for a person reason or because they think it is too costly and/or not needed.

Individuals who have not experienced sight loss can not appreciate the value of "descriptive video." The added cost to provide this additional service is minimal in cost when compared to the total cost. Individuals who are deaf or heard of hearing now have captioning available to them. As individuals who are legally blind, why shouldn't we have "descriptive Video" available to us?

We support the FCC's proposed rules for "descriptive video", MM Docket No. 99-339. It is our hope that you will make a positive decision in reference to this valuable service on behalf of the individuals who do not have enough vision to fully enjoy the programming without "descriptive video." If you should need additional information from us, we await your request.

Don Koors, legally blind  
Gerry Koors, totally blind  
5885 North Central Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2509  
Ph. (317) 251-2562.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Arlene Cohen [arlene@en.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 3:38 PM  
**To:** ACB National  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Dear Sir:

I am blind and enjoy watching TV after a hard day at work. It would be much more enjoyable if I could tell what action was being seen by all the "sighted " TV watchers.

Please help me to have the same access to information as you do. Please support MM Docket 99-339.

Thank you for your support,

Arlene Cohen  
1306 Giesse Drive  
Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Anderson, Katrina L [KAnderson@fssa.state.in.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 3:43 PM  
**To:** 'info@acb.org'  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

\* Katrina Anderson  
\* 4317B Malden Ct.  
\* Beech Grove, IN 46107  
\* March 22, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

\* I am writing to express my support of the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339. I am totally blind, and live alone. As a result, I do not have sighted assistance when watching television.

\*  
\* Television is an extremely important part of my life. Of course it serves as a major form of entertainment, but it also provides an enormous amount of information. The latter is extremely relevant since I cannot access newspapers and the like. However, I will never know how much information has been denied to those of us who do not have the benefit of vision. Please help enrich the lives of the visually impaired individuals of our country by providing descriptive narration on network television.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!  
Katrina Anderson

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Arlene Cohen [arlene@en.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 3:48 PM  
**To:** ACB National  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

Dear Sirs:

I am blind and enjoy many TV programs. Many times, it's hard for me to understand what is happening because there is silence . If the programs were described, I would be able to enjoy the action just as much as you do.

Please support and hurry along MM Docket 99-339. I am looking forward to many more video described programs.

Thank you so much,

Lillian Sego  
6755 Mayfield Road #721  
Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** JoChisnell [JoChisnell@email.msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 7:46 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Mary Jo and Stevan Chisnell  
738 Edgewood Rd.  
Richmond Heights Ohio 44143

Mary Jo is blind, and I am visually impaired. Descriptive Video allows us to enjoy movies, plays, and television shows. We strongly support the FCC rule making in reference to described video, MM Docket No. 99 - 339.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Steve and Jo Chisnell

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** Hodge Charles [hodge-charles@dol.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 6:48 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** FW: I support descriptive video services:

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From: Hodge Charles  
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2000 6:43 PM  
To: 'info@acb.,org'  
Subject: I support descriptive video services:

My name is Charles Hodge, and I presently live at 1131 South Forest Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22204. I am a blind adult citizen who enjoys watching and listening to movies and a wide variety of television programming. I am here commenting on the Federal Communication Commission's proposed rule on descriptive video services, mm docket No. 99-339. Despite the misguided contentions of the National Federation of the Blind who do not speak for this blind American, I wholeheartedly support the spirit and intent of the fcc's proposed rule. As the digital age in television broadcasting is dawning upon us, it is clear that a broader and richer tapestry of broadcasting options lies immediately ahead of us. The proposed rule begins by establishing a modest requirement for dvs equipped broadcasts while indicating that the dvs requirement may be increased in phased in steps in the future. This balanced phased-in approach fits well with the legitimate television broadcast accessibility needs of the blind and visually impaired community when balanced against the ever changing conditions in the television broadcasting arena. I hope in closing that the fcc will move ahead to promptly finalize this important proposed rule regarding descriptive video services. Respectfully submitted, Charles Hodge

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Robert Rogers [rrrogers@one.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 7:40 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Cc:** k8co@one.net  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO

I thank the FCC for its position on descriptive video. I urge the FCC to continue its stand and ask that it will see to the inclusion of provisions for descriptive video in the scheme of digital television.

I, myself, derive enjoyment and satisfaction from television programs even though I am totally blind. However, I am having more and more difficulty understanding whole segments of programs. Frequently, I will get involved with watching a movie and get very frustrated because the ending is totally visual making it impossible for me to understand just what happened. I will explain by giving an example. I frequently enjoy a rather well done series, JAG, on CBS. The episode shown on March 21, 2000, is an example of which I speak. It was enjoyable until the conclusion of the episode. Even though I am blind, I could more or less follow the story until the last two or three minutes. At that time, I completely lost it because only a sighted person could understand how the story finished. I watch that episode for almost an hour, wasted almost an hour, because the conclusion was accessible only to a sighted watcher. I was furious because I wanted to know how it worked out and could not. Descriptive video would have made that possible.

More and more, there are millions of low vision and legally blind people who are denied access to information and entertainment because of the way television is getting even more visual in nature. There was a time that one could understand through the dialog. The population of the U.S. is aging and with that aging, there will be more with low vision or blindness. With this aging population, people are also living much longer. Are we to ignore these numbers and say, "sorry, but you people are just going to have to find some other source of information and entertainment, or maybe you can get a friend or neighbor or somebody... to come over and explain it to you."

Inclusion of descriptive video in the scheme of television, in my view, is imperative. There are those who contend that descriptive video would be prohibitively expensive, but when balanced against the massive revenue derived from television productions, it would amount to only pennies to the entertainment industry. The technology already exists to make it possible. We cannot ignore millions of citizens because the television industry does not want to go to the trouble of working out the details. The industry did it for captioned video for the deaf. Now let the industry do likewise for descriptive video for low vision and legally blind audiences.

Robert Rogers  
1121 Morado Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45238  
Phone: (513) 921-3186 (home), (513) 762-4022 (work)

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Mary Hiland [maryhila@gcfn.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 7:43 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support video description

I am very grateful for the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video, MM Docket no. 99-339. Finally, I will be able to experience the benefits of television, just as my fellow sighted Americans do. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,  
Mary Hiland  
439 Canterwood Ct.  
Gahanna OH 43230

Mary Hiland <maryhila@freenet.columbus.oh.us>

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** Enoch Todd [enoch@netdotcom.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2000 8:50 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** FCC Rules for Video Description

I strongly support the minimal requirements for video description currently proposed by the Federal Communications Commission.

Enoch Todd  
360 Trumbull Avenue SE  
Warren, OH 44483  
E-mail: [enoch@netdotcom.com](mailto:enoch@netdotcom.com)

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** Ray and Karyn Campbell [farmboy@concentric.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 5:30 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

Ray Campbell  
460 Raintree Ct., #3K  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

I am totally blind and I support requiring Video Description in television programming as proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MM Docket #99-339.