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MAR 21 2000

99-339

March 18, 2000
Christie L. Gilson
827 Grand Avenue, #11
Waukegan, IL 60085-4192

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas,
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission,
445 Twelfth Street, S.W., TW-A325,
Washington, D.C. 20554

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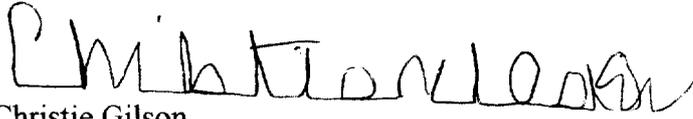
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CIB-CIND

Dear Magalie Roman Salas:

I would like to voice my support for descriptive video for people who are blind or visually impaired. As a blind person I tend not to watch television, since I miss the visual aspects of the programming. As I am sure you are aware, watching television is becoming more and more central to the lives of many people; hence, I often feel left out in conversations at my job or in social settings. This is because I am not able to watch television as sighted people do. Descriptive video offers me the opportunity to fully understand what is occurring on television.

Once again, I stand in favor of more descriptive video as described in Docket Number 99-339. I eagerly look forward to the day when I can enjoy television as sighted people do. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Christie Gilson

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Glenn R. McCully
635 7th ST NE #218
Auburn, WA 98002

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March 15, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth ST S.W. TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary Salas:

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, millions of disabled people have enjoyed access to things they never dreamed possible before the law. They are able to work and travel freely thanks in part to tough federal standards which insure them equal access. It is for this reason I am writing in support of MM docket number 99-339, the rule change that would make audio-descriptive programming available to thousands of blind television users.

As blind people we don't "watch" TV, we "listen" to TV. Since we are unable to see the information being presented on the screen we rely only on the verbal communication associated with the program to get all our information about the broadcast. Making audio-descriptive video available to the blind would further enhance our enjoyment of television not to mention all the educational opportunities it could open up. Many who are blind since birth have never seen anything. The better a situation is described to them, the better the picture they paint in their mind of the program will become. Without audio-descriptive video blind people simply do not have the same access to information afforded to everyone else in society.

Many in the television and motion picture industry will argue that this service is too expensive. This is the same type of excuse that was used when closed captioning first came to the market years ago. Captions have enhanced the lives of countless deaf just as audio described programs will for the blind.

Despite what you may be hearing from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), not all blind people disagree with the proposed rule changes. The fact of the matter is the majority of the blind in the United States have nothing to do with NFB and strongly support these changes. This organization only voices the opinion of a few select blind people who are so far off base with their philosophy and thinking it would take me hours to explain. Please don't rely on the information provided by this misguided organization. Blind people do want the changes and they want them as soon as possible.

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MAR 28 P 10 05

Thank you in advance for making these sweeping changes. I look forward to the day when I can sit down and hear my favorite program being described to me in detail.

Sincerely yours,

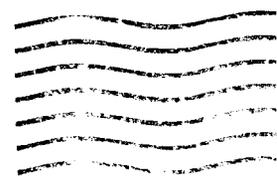
Glenn R. McCully
Glenn R. McCully

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse For The Blind, Inc.

P.O. Box 14959

Seattle, WA 98114 - 0959



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Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

