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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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June 29, 1999

Mr. William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 814
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the Director of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the rehabilitation agency for consumers who are blind and visually impaired in South Dakota, I encourage you to promote passage of the access rules section 255 of the Communications Act of 1996.

Access to telecommunications systems is increasing for all citizens of the United States including people who are blind and visually impaired. The FCC needs to ensure equal access by approving a rule, which directs companies to make their telecommunications products and services accessible and usable by people who are blind or severely visually impaired.

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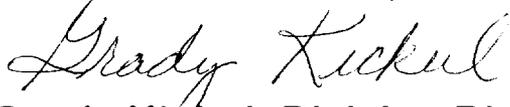
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The use of devices such as cellular phones, pagers, multi-line business phones with digital displays and caller id boxes are very visual and many features are not accessible to consumers who are blind or visually impaired.

I urge you to promote passage of the access rules on July 14th. Full access to all communications systems is crucial for all citizens of the U.S.A.

Sincerely,



Grady Kickul, Division Director
GK/tlg

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