

Anne Fesh

From: PIWOW@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 6:49 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Letter to FCC

This is a copy of the letter I sent to the FCC .

Joseph M. Lucasiewicz
3336 Dolin Avenue
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

I would like to thank the commission for their July 21st ruling on providing video description for television programming for the blind and visually impaired.

I sincerely urge the commission to reject any "Petitions to Reconsider" the July ruling. I feel very strongly that the petitioners have not provided any new information for reconsideration.

I am submitting this official filing of protest and opposition to the Petition For Reconsideration of the reported order on video description. (Docket # 99-339)

Joseph M. Lucasiewicz

Anne Fesh

From: Elaine Lusane
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 3:05 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Gail Lusane
Docket No. 99-339

I am " IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION ".

Thank you, Gail LuSane

Anne Fesh

From: Cynthia Lynn [cindy|@mitkof.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2000 7:40
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
To: Magalie Salas, Secretary

The Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

From: Cynthia E. Lynn, BSN, RN
Post Office Box 1758
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

RE: In opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on Video Description.

Docket #99-339

November 1, 2000

Dear Commissioners,

Please uphold your July 21st ruling requiring television networks to provide video description by April 2002.

I am using my Marks Scripts guide so I can get this urgent request in the mail. This Script Guide allows me to write in cursive and in straight lines even though I cannot see the letters. I hope it is legible.

Even as a teenager I could not read subtitles unless I was right on top of the TV set. When I read the subtitles I could not read the remainder of the screen. Of course I thought that everyone saw as I did.

In 1996 when I was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, the loss of peripheral sight explained this tunnel vision.

In spite of this I finished college and worked as an RN for twenty years. September 1994 was the first time I had to admit that I could no longer see the TV to follow the story.

I now have to get all my cues from listening only. Trying to identify the characters by memorizing the voices of each person. Environmental happenings are also a guess by using my ears. I have to identify sounds, i.e.: is that what a person falling down sounds like?

Trying to see the story without sight is not fun. With long pauses without dialogue, not being able to see the people, landscape, facial expressions, or sequence of action scenes makes it almost impossible to follow the plot. My three children are so tired of my asking, "Who was that? What's happening?"

My first time to experience DVS was as a student at the Carroll Center for the Blind, in Newton Massachusetts. While in the

11/6/2000

dormitory we were supplied with DVS videos. For the first time I was able to enjoy a film. The DVS speaker explained, between speaking parts, a description of what the characters looked like, the action, i.e.: " he crosses the room" or " with a look of rage on his face".

I also experienced DVS at a musical production of " Titanic" in Boston. The DVS speaker gave a brief introduction to the story, how the stage was set up and who sang this or that and why. Even seated just behind the orchestra, I could see nothing. It was fun to enjoy the play thanks to DVS.

Television and movies are such a major part of our lives these days. To not be have the ability to enjoy it is a loss. With DVS I can enjoy both. Being blind I need this accommodation. Blindness is not just an inconvenience believe me. Sight loss affects every single part of a persons daily living, quality of life and recreation.

Presently I cannot drive anymore, cannot sail my sailboat, read a book, take photographs, hike, bicycle or fish. With my continued rehabilitation I shall find other interests to replace some activities and ways to accommodate such as learning Braille, to read in peace and quite and hiring a sighted skipper for sailing. With my audible computer I hope to return to the workplace soon.

In the meantime I can enjoy the latest videos thanks to Descriptive Video Services. Where I live in Alaska we currently do not have DVS receiver or Radio Reading Service.

Thank you,

Cynthia E. Lynn RN.

Petersburg, Alaska

Anne Fesh

From: Glnlytl@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2000 9:04 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339 - Video Description for the Blind

Following is a copy of my letter which is being mailed to Magalie Salas:

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

I want to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for requiring the networks to begin providing video description for television programming by April of 2002!

I am not blind, but for the many blind and visually impaired persons in this country, this is an extremely important ruling in order for them to know what is happening on television.

I am aware that there is a petition to reverse the FCC's ruling--Docket No. 99-339--and this letter is to express my opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Video description is certainly very important to those who are blind. They have so many obstacles to overcome, and this is one way we can make their lives better.

Sincerely,

Marilyn G. Lytle
4002 Jasmine Drive
Wichita, KS 67226

Anne Fesh

From: marjmacbride@att.net
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 7:09 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Visually Impaired Needs

November 6, 2000

TO: Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Sir:

I am a U. S. citizen who lives in Mount Prospect, Illinois. My husband, Donald, and I are visually impaired, legally blind. Both Donald and I have some vision. We are very appreciative to the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to us, and others like us.

With my visual impairment, I have great difficulty in seeing the whole television screen along with what is happening during that scene. I am totally blind on the left side of my angle vision, and therefore, if I do not turn my head fast enough, I will not see any action nor facial expressions of the characters. It is wonderful to find out what is happening during the picture so that I know what could be happening next. The video description also describes the scenery during the scene and it helps me a lot. It is very important to listen to the scenery description, the character's movements and description of what they are doing while they act, and the description of the scenery change for the next scene so that I can understand what is happening and enjoy what I am watching. It helps me to be independent, and it is very important to me.

Before this wonderful service, many times I had to ask someone next to me on what was happening in the show or ask who was that and what did he do. This service is very important to me because it gives me freedom to do what other "normal" people do everyday. Now that I am married to a visually impaired, we do not have anyone to ask on what is happening during the show. We need this service so that we can do an enjoyable activity together.

I strongly plead for the video description to continue because the value of the video description is a great need for my husband and I. We have not received any notice from the petitioner about the FCC reaching this decision and issuing an the ruling. Please consider "Blind People" and the importance of video description!

Sincerely,
Marjorie MacBride
marjmacbride@att.net

Anne Fesh

From: Bea [bmacg@excelonline.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 7:04

To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org

Subject: Video Program Description

The Federal Communications Commission
Magalie Salas, Secretary
445 125th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
No.99-339

Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the Commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision. For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Beatrice J. MacGregor, Robert B. MacGregor and Alexander B. MacGregor

Anne Fesh

From: Mike & Pilot [woody757@home.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 7:50 AM
To: info@acb.org
Cc: Magalie Salas
Subject: Docket No. 99-339 " In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of The Reported Order On Video Description"
Importance: High

**Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Ms Salas,

I have to object and request that the FCC put a freeze on the idea of not making television descriptive like the deaf and hard of hearing have the text of whats being said on the television. Descriptive videos when I can locate them are more enjoyable than listening to a video even though it maybe the same video that a sighted person can watch, and yet the plain video is hard to follow just as plain television also is hard to follow without descriptive text. Maybe I have been spoiled especially when I go to Leader Dogs for The Blind to get a new replacement Leader Dog because they have both descriptive television and only descriptive videos for the students to use for enjoyment (the videos are in English and Spanish).

Ms Salas, when the FCC announced that by April 2002 the visually impaired would be able to enjoy television and cable stations because the descriptive would be required on all channels. What really angers me the most is this late in the process the FCC has decided to reverse its previous order for the Descriptive to be added to both videos, and television while after researching the FCC website it strikes me odd that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known to the FCC at the time of its ruling. That point is very crucial component for any petitioner to reconsider.

In closing I would request that the FCC hold another hearing on this issue if the Commissioners are going to reconsider this subject and that I be allowed to testify in favor of the original ruling by the FCC Commissioners to require descriptive components both on video and television --- television I understand to also include cable which is a large part of the television areas today in the 21st Century.

Sincerely yours,
**Michael G. Macioch
and Leader Dog Pilot
660 Kennington Road
Reisterstown, MD 21136-6420**

10/31/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Lynette Kersey
[meowoof96@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 12:48 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Official Filings letter for the FCC.

November 9, 2000

Barbara MacKenzie
P.O. Box 111299
Aurora, CO, 80042

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC, 20554

To the Commissioners of the FCC:

I appreciate the positive vote you pass last July requiring the networks to begin providing video description to

11/10/2000

people who are blind and visually impaired. This is essential information that we need. It took courage for you to pass this ruling and I hope that you will not withdraw your ruling.

I have enjoyed listening to the public station in my area that has some of its shows with video description on them. It is wonderful to be able to watch TV and know all about what is going on. I have been looking forward to turning on my TV in April of 2002 and being able to enjoy all of the programs that my friends and family do even though it is in a little different way. I won't have to ask someone to tell me what is going on and that is the best of all. I will also be able to take advantage of advertisements that say, "call the number on the bottom of your screen if you want this product."

We really need video description to make TV programs and movies even more enjoyable for us. Just try watching a Television show with your eyes closed and you will see what we mean yourselves. Also from what I know about this situation the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

The official Filings No. is 99-399.

I am submitting comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

Please do not change your ruling. Please stand firm on this and it will help my friends and I in the near future.

Thank You,

Barbara MacKenzie

11/10/2000

November 2, 2000

**Magalie Salsa, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Ms. Salsa:

This letter is being submitted as an official filing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The official docket number is 99-339.

On behalf of Disabled Resource Services, I would like to strongly urge you not to reverse your decision to require television networks to provide video description for people with visual disabilities. As a person who is totally blind myself, descriptive video is invaluable to me. I have experienced the same movie first without descriptive video and then with it, and I was amazed at how much I was missing. I am sure that when you first approved descriptive videos on commercial and cable television, you did so to make these broadcasts more accessible to people with visual disabilities. Therefore, it is imperative that you continue your efforts to promote accessibility for all viewers.

There are some movies that have very little dialogue which makes it even more difficult to understand what is going on. There are also facial expressions, gestures, and action scenes that a person without sight misses if they do not have the benefit of descriptive video.

There are approximately 4.3 million citizens in the United States that have visual disabilities. This is a significant number of people who could benefit from this extremely important and much needed service. As the population continues to age, the percentage of people with visual disabilities who could benefit from descriptive videos will continue to increase.

I understand the petitioners who want you to reconsider your decision have not submitted any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC

reached its decision and issued the ruling. I would like to commend the FCC for voting for descriptive videos on the cable and television networks. Please continue supporting this endeavor.

Sincerely,

**Donald E. Maroney
Loveland Branch Manager**

**Mrs. Kathleen L. Maroney
1351 S. Edinburgh Dr.
Loveland, CO 80537
November 3, 2000**

**Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street, SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the wife of a person who is totally blind and the sister of two who have low-vision, I would like to let you know how important it is to me that you do not reverse your decision mandating video description for television programming for people with visual impairments. I really appreciate the fact that you ruled to require television networks to provide video descriptions. Please don't allow the television, cable, and motion picture industry to change your opinion. If your decision was right it the first place, it still is.

Closed captioning is available for people with hearing impairments, and I'm sure that you realize that people with visual disabilities need video descriptions just as much. I try my best to describe what is happening during television shows and movies, but during fast or technical scenes, this is an almost impossible task. My husband is very appreciative of what I am able to do, but he knows that he is missing some things that descriptive video could provide. This saddens me.

A survey showed that blindness was the disability that people feared the most. Shouldn't we do our best to provide any consideration and help for people with visual disabilities? Blindness is a very difficult condition to experience, and descriptive video is a positive thing that could provide so much benefit and joy to people with visual disabilities.

I am submitting these comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. Please consider this an official filing for Docket No. 99-339. I am imploring you to vote not only with your mind but with your heart. Please don't be persuaded to do something that you know is not right by reversing your decision. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Kathleen L. Maroney

Anne Fesh

From: Paul and Joanne Martin [pjmar@globenetworks.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 10:46 PM

To: American Council for the Blind

Subject: Descriptive Video1103 Fifth Avenue1103 Fifth

1103 Fifth Avenue

Dodge City, KS 67801

October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear MS Salas:

It is very important to anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternative means for knowing what's happening on the television. Video description has been a wonderful benefit to those who are visually impaired. The movies on video that are available from the regional Talking Book Libraries with video description have been enjoyed by the people in this area. We have been looking forward to being able to access television programs with this medium in April 2002. We are very thankful to the commissioners of the FCC for voting to require networks to begin providing this essential information service.

The deaf have had closed captioning for several years and anyone can access this on most television sets. I feel those who are blind should have the same type of access.

However I learned recently that there are petitions to reconsider your July ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers. The petitioners have not provided any new information, which was not already known at the time of the FCC ruling. This letter is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Please give the blind and visually impaired the same type of service that the deaf have had for several years and that the general public experiences all the time. The Docket Number is 99-339. Thank you for considering my concern on this matter.

Sincerely

Joanne Martin

11/2/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Bmtthws@cs.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 11:58 AM
To: access@ftc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: DOCKET#99339

Copy of letter sent to FCC , Sunday, Nov. 5, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Stree, SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Docket #99=339

Gentlemen:

We appreciate your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

This si very important to people who cannot see to havean alternate means such as video description for knowing what is happening on TV.

As the petitioners against this service have not furnished any new information, we think you should stand by your ruling.

Thank you for uour attention to this matter.

This is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration on the recorded order on video descriptions.

Sincerely,

Emery and Betty Matthews
1101 S. Ellsworth Rd., #346
Mesa, AZ 85208
Home Phone: 480=373=9628
e-mail: bmtthws@cs.com

Anne Fesh

From: NaplesParkInn@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 10:01 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Re. Video Description

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the FCC Commissioners for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. This docket No. 99-339 is crucial to the Blind and visually impaired so that no backstepping will occur to stop this process and will have the year 2002 give us this wonderful service.

Both my husband and I are blind and visually impaired and know as well as have experienced the joy of understanding a complete tv program as well as a movie and theater production.

Please allow this process to be completed without delay. Thank you for your contribution. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mazza

Anne Fesh

From: David Mayer [david301@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 3:21 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: FCC Audio Descriptive Ruling for Blind & Visually
November 2, 2000

Dear Commissioners

I would like to heartily thank the commissioners for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to blind and visually impaired people. This service would verbally describe non-spoken and important messages that scroll across the bottom of the television screen. These narrations would enable the blind and visually impaired to quietly watch television without having it described to them by another person. Also, this service will prevent the blind and visually from being harmed by dangerous weather or surrounding hazards. I urge you not to overturn your April 21st FCC Audio Descriptive Ruling for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Sincerely

David Mayer

David Mayer

Anne Fesh

From: Denny McClarren [gramm@concentric.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 9:41 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Docket #99-339

z,shs;or Salas, Secretary

I would like to thank you and the FCC for your vote to require the networks to begin providing descriptive video services. I am visually impaired and can't tell you how fantastic it is to be able to hear what is going on during various programs, including the news! They will sometimes refer you to the number on the screen for a particular service. If I have pen and paper in hand and can get to within ten inches of the TV, I may be able to make out the numbers.

My neighbor has a daughter who is hearing impaired and she has asked why they don't have services for the blind and visually impaired as they do the closed caption for the hearing impaired. Good question.

I do applaud your efforts and just want you to know how much we in the visually impaired community appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

I oppose the petitioners who are asking you to reconsider your order to provide descriptive video.

Thank you.

Judy McClarren

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

November 1, 2000

Magalie Salas-Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary Salas:

On July 21, 2000 your agency courageously pass a ruling (docket #99-339) requiring television networks to begin offering audio description services to blind Americans by April 2002. I applaud this wonderful decision and look forward to enjoying television even more when this service begins. This ruling demonstrates your agencies dedication to people with disabilities and your desire to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Recently petitions for reconsideration have been filed by representatives of the major television and motion picture studios and by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). These groups want to see this ruling overturned. I do not support their efforts and strongly urge you to deny these petitions.

The television and motion picture industries only motivation for wanting this ruling overturned is corporate greed. They feel the minimal expense of providing this service will lower the absurdly huge profits they currently enjoy. The only people they truly care about are the shareholders of their companies. The National Federation of the Blind is the only blind consumer organization in the country that is against this ruling. Let me assure you they do not speak for the majority. In my personal opinion this organization consists mostly of self-righteous delusional zealots who wish to deny this service to everyone just to advance their own misguided political agenda. They are not a credible representation of blind people and their comments should be ignored.

The evidence these two groups have submitted with their petition for reconsideration was already considered by your agency before the July ruling. Neither group has any new information to introduce to support their arguments. Since this evidence was rejected earlier, reconsideration at this time would not be a worthwhile endeavor.

Audio description for the blind is just as important as providing closed captioning to he deaf. The costs are similar and the technology is just as easy to

implement. Equal access is a basic human right afforded to all people with disabilities. Audio description for television should be given the same priority we give to wheelchair ramps, service animals, and closed captioning.

Please support the rights of the blind by not overturning this ruling. Audio description is a great idea and needs to be available for anyone who wishes to use it. The solution to this problem is simple. If a blind person does not wish to have or use this service they can choose not to turn it on just as they would change the channel if a program they do not like comes on the one they are watching.

Thank you for your support of blind people and for providing this wonderful technology.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. McCully

Mr. Dave McDanal
Northern Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
Fort Collins, Colorado
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salsa, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salsa:

This letter is being submitted as an official filing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The official docket number is 99-339.

As a member of the Northern Colorado Cross Disabilities Coalition, I urge you not to reverse your decision to require television networks to provide video description for people with visual disabilities. I work with many people who are blind or visually impaired who use descriptive video. Descriptive video makes a huge difference to all of these people.

Imagine how difficult it is following a program without descriptive videos. You miss so much content, it is hardly worth the effort. By running programming with descriptive videos, you make television much more accessible to the four and a half million people who have visual disabilities. Please continue these efforts. They are much needed!

It is my understanding that no new information was submitted by the petitioners that wasn't previously known. I would like to thank the FCC for your support of descriptive videos. Please do not reverse your decision.

Sincerely,

Dave McDanal
Northern Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

17 Fairwood Court
Rockville, MD 20850-3005
November 3, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Docket Number 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas and Commissioners:

Thank you for your July 21, 2000 ruling which will provide for video description for television programming. As a member of the American Council of the Blind, I am pleased to hear about your vote on behalf of blind and visually impaired viewers.

Our 24-year-old daughter, who is visually impaired, relies on others to understand the visual aspects of television. As she struggles to comprehend the non-verbal components of facial expressions and background scenes, my husband and I likewise struggle to quickly interject appropriate description. We try to answer her questions: "What's the expression on Sid's face?" or "What does John look like?" or "What's going on now?" If only television programming could incorporate description, then everybody in the family could quietly relax and enjoy the show! When we borrow audio-described videos from the Special Needs Library in Bethesda, Maryland, purchase a video from *WGBH's Descriptive Video Service*, or watch certain PBS shows, our entire family knows what is happening on the screen. We truly hope your ruling will stand firm and continue forward so that we can enjoy regular television as well.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The petitioners have not produced any new information which your commission did not know at the time you issued your ruling. As you declared, television should provide essential information and entertainment to blind and visually impaired citizens. Their needs are no less important than those of deaf and hard of hearing citizens who already receive closed captioning. We all need to be able to hear and to see what television is trying to transmit; we all can -- except for blind and visually impaired individuals. Not only would our young adult daughter benefit, but also her aging adult parents might eventually benefit from video description for television programming.

Thank you again for your ruling and for considering our responses against the petitioners.

Sincerely,

Hannah K. McGinnis

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC. 20554

Re Docket 99-339

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am a Blind, retired Social Worker and I now help run 2 support groups for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Everyone in my groups and myself were excited beyond words when you people agreed to include audio description with TV programming beginning in April 2002. We Can't wait!!!

I understand you have received "Petitions To Reconsider", however, it seems to me that they are asking you to reconsider the decision you have already made, and that they are not giving you any new reasons to debate, YOUR DECISION SHOULD STAND.

Only if you are Blind or visually impaired can you fully appreciate the value of this service as I have.

I, and my groups of Visually Impaired people are urging you to please leave your decision stand as is.

Thank You
Nola McKinney

Nola McKinney

THIS IS CC OF LETTER AS SENT. —

Anne Fesh

From: JoanMedina@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 11:29 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org; Tiffany.M.Medina@williams.edu
Subject: IN OPPOSITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Docket No. 99-339
Dear Commissioners:

We strongly support video description of the key visual elements of television programming for the blind and visually impaired viewers. This is an essential information service for those who cannot see, and the number is steadily increasing. We appreciate your vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description and will support this effort in any way we possibly can. Our daughter is visually impaired and the only way she can truly enjoy watching television and videos is when they are described. Our family is looking forward to watching TV in April, 2002 when the video description will be available. Please don't let the petitioners change your minds on the importance of this issue! The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

Sincerely,

Frank and Joan Medina

Anne Fesh

From: Maria [txmaria@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2000 12:20 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Subject: Ruling on Video Description

DOCKET No. 99-339

November 4th, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas and FCC:

We are writing to express our appreciation for July vote in support of video description (DVS), and in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

Providing description of the visuals in TV programs for the visually impaired population will be a step further in improving the quality of information, entertainment and education for the blind/visually impaired population.

As parents of a blind young child, we look forward to our son experiencing a fuller understanding of television programming, which will surely enrich his development of concepts that we (the sighted) get incidentally. This is certainly a long-awaited event for thousands of people nationwide. Just as the closed-captioning feature that the deaf population enjoys today, DVS will make television programming richer, more accesible and real , reaching a broader audience. It will also mean the acknowledgement of the blind/visually impaired as part of the viewing community. We believe DVS, like other physical access of the handicapped to buildings or employment, is not a privilege but a right that the communications technology has made possible and attainable.

We applaud the FCC's July 21st ruling and urge you to stand strong in your position. Any consideration made by the opposing petitioners does not equal the immense significance that DVS has on equal access to information media. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Maria Mercado
Ernesto Raices

Do You Yahoo!?
Thousands of Stores. Millions of Products. All in one Place.
<http://shopping.yahoo.com/>