

To Federal Communications Commission:

I am writing this letter to ask that the FCC protect the 216-217 MHz band from commercial purchase. This frequency has been set aside for a good reason; it has an impact on the lives of many young American students with hearing impairment.

I am no longer a child, but I was a hard of hearing child who used an FM system throughout grade school. Even at the university level, I have worn the FM device during the first couple of years. It didn't occur to me to stop using one. Why? The answer is because listening through the FM system have given me a feeling of confidence that I will hear what my teachers have to say, that I won't be distracted by environmental sounds and miss important information. As a child, I was a unique student not because I had a hearing disability but because I was one of the few students who had the ability to stay focused on my teachers and the lessons at hand. I could be attentive because I was using the FM system, which blocks out all but the one communication channel between my teachers and me. Sadly, the majority of American students are notorious for having short attention spans and, as a result, perform poorly or average in school. The FM system prevented this from happening to me; in the end, I did very well—earning a 4.0 cumulative GPA throughout high school and becoming one of the valedictorians at graduation. To date, I will be attending one of the most prestigious medical schools in the U.S. this year and hope to serve the people in my community after completing my M.D. What would have happened to me if the FM system or the 216-217 MHz band were not available? I wouldn't have made it this far or if I did, it would have been extremely difficult.

Mine is one of the many success stories of the FM system. Indeed, it is also a success story validating the federal government's wisdom in reserving the 216-217 MHz band for deaf and hard of hearing people. In doing so, the federal government effectively ensures that many deaf and hard of hearing children using FM systems have the opportunity to succeed in school. I have no doubt that America can and will produce more successful deaf and hard of hearing young people who will contribute to the country as future doctors, like me, or other professionals. All it takes is for the government to once again see the wisdom of protecting this little window (216-217 MHz for FM systems)--a window of opportunity. This is one investment that will pay dividends now and in the future. Please think of the children when deciding the fate of the 216-217 MHz band.

Sincerely,  
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