



Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-204B
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Reference Number: DA-01-155
Docket Number CC 98-67

To the Federal Communication Commission:

My name is Dandra Barnes-Smith of Dripping Springs, Tx.

I would like to encourage the FCC to approve adding IP Relay to the NECA reimbursement plan and allow people who need IP Relay to enjoy the benefits of this innovative approach to relay services. Like many other people, I have found IP Relay to be an excellent service.

There are many benefits of IP Relay over present relay services. Perhaps the most important benefit is the ability to call someone while using computer. Most people use their phone line modem for Internet connection. When someone uses the Internet, they cannot use the phone without having to turn off the Internet to use the phone then turn back the Internet. It was a hindrance. With IP Relay, a person may place a relay call while using Internet. This is not only a wonderful convenience but a great time saver.

Relay is reliable in terms of communication clarity. State relay services with TTY often results in garbled messages due to interferences. When using IP Relay, there are no scrambled messages. All messages between the IP Relay and I are clean and clear.

Another benefit of IP Relay is cost. Voice telephone users may call to anywhere in the world using their internet service provider. IP Relay extends this benefit to telephone users who are deaf and hard of hearing.

If approved by FCC, IP Relay will empower the individual to make the decision as to which relay service provider to use rather than be limited to a single provider contracted with by the individual state TRS service. This is also the functional equivalence of competitive telephone service enjoyed by voice users.

IP Relay will increase privacy and confidentiality. Since the Communication Assistance will not know where an IP Relay call originates, there is less chance of loss of privacy.

IP Relay reimbursement by the national funding source would decrease and perhaps eventually eliminate the need for a funding mechanism in each and every state.

I encourage the FCC to approve the WorldCom request for funding IP Relay.

Sincerely yours,

Dandra Barnes Smith
105 Oak Ridge Dr.
Dripping Springs, Tx 78620
7/25/01

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