

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Patricia" <omoreira@acb.org>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2002 11:56 AM  
**Subject:** DVS

I am writing to let you know that I support DVS.

Patricia Moreira

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Rod Boriack" <Rod\_Boriack@elca.org>  
**To:** <info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2002 11:18 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

While I am not visually impaired or blind, I am in support of creating every avenue possible for access to movies and videos for those who are blind or visually impaired

Rod Boriack  
Chicago, IL

Rod G. Boriack  
ELCA Youth Ministries Gathering  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1-800-638-3522, ext. 804  
rod\_boriack@elca.org  
<http://www.elca.org>

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Joyce Strother" <jestrother@sbsvi.org>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2002 11:08 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "kareneitel" <kareneitel@myexcel.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2002 2:24 AM  
**Subject:** I asupport Descriptive Video

Try putting on a blindfold, then try to watch your favorite prime time show with no one else in the room.

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Make Unlimited phone calls from your PC to ANY phone in the World!  
<http://www.eboom.com/free/>

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Malver, Michael (MN27)" <Michael.Malver@Honeywell.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2002 1:56 PM  
**Subject:** i support video description

Michael Malver  
Technical Support Engineer, ss&cs helpdesk  
612-951-1732  
mailto://michael.malver@honeywell.com

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Smith, Judy K (So Bend VR)" <JSmith23@fssa.state.in.us>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2002 10:41 AM  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT VIDEO DESCRIPTION

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE FCC:  
FROM: JUDITH K. SMITH, REHABILITATION TEACHER CERTIFIED  
FAMILY & SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION OF DISABILITY, AGING & REHAB. SERVICES  
DIVISION OF BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED SERVICES  
221 W. WAYNE ST.  
SOUTH BEND, IN 46601  
MM DOCKET # 99-339

FORWARD TO CHARLES CRAWFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Dacanay Rommel D" <Rommel.D.Dacanay@irs.gov>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2002 9:19 AM  
**Subject:** Descriptive Video Service

I SUPPORT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO. Please implement the descriptive video rule.

Rommel Dacanay  
Member, Visually Impaired Employees Support Group, IRS  
Member, Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, D.C.

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "LuAnne Bullington" <luanneb@comcast.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2002 9:15 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

I am blind and need descriptive video.

I also need my cable company to support the technology.

I own the necessary equipment that will access descriptive videos. The few times descriptive videos were broadcast in my area, my cable company did not support the technology and I was not able to use the technology.

LuAnne Bullington  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** <HMSYouinou@aol.com>  
**To:** <Info@acb.org>  
**Cc:** <sesiemers@students.wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2002 8:14 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 15th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 29554  
Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr.Caton,

As the daughter of a visually impaired father, I am appalled to hear that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America have filed a petition at the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule until after the court appeal is decided.

I have spent my entire life watching my father progressively lose his vision due to a degenerative retinal disease, and as a consequence he has had to stop nearly all of his activities, whether they be professional or leisurely, until left with very little to do

One of the things that my father enjoys very much and finds himself less and less able to do everyday, is watch the news, educational and historical documentaries, and major motion pictures on television. He has long since stopped going to movie theaters because his total lack of peripheral vision does not allow him to take in the majority of the movie screen. Soon he will lose what little tunnel vision he has left, and will be forced to stop yet another of what remains of the very few activities he can still enjoy.

Please do everything possible to give my father and others like him access to the everyday information and entertainment that we sighted people are able to take advantage of, and perhaps I'll be able to take in a movie at the local theater with my dad for the first time in years...

Thanking you in advance,  
Heather Siemers Youinou (American citizen)  
Rue des Romarins  
Quartier le Claret  
84120 Pertuis, FRANCE

My U.S. address:  
N92 W6168 Arbor Drive  
Cedarburg, WI 53012  
USA

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Cay Deanns The Email Queen" <cayjazz@cayjazz.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 11:23 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Carol Bartlett  
121 Mariner Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

Mr. William Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: reference MM docket number 99-339

Dear Sir:

As a blind person, Descriptive Video Service is very important to me. I feel that action should be taken to put it in place as soon as possible. The industry seems to have embraced captioning for the deaf. DVS is, to my way of thinking, the audible version of captioning.

At present, my digital cable system doesn't support DVS at all, even though many channels that provide it are on the system. I am told that the signal must be analog. To make a service that is already provided by many channels not available because it is analog is a travesty! I don't have the option of getting these channels in analog format, our provider only has them in digital format. A lot of work has to be done, but it is important that a blind person has as much information available to them as is humanly possible.

There has been too much foot dragging already and I'd like to see DVS to be implemented on schedule in April.

Sincerely,  
Carol Bartlett

cc: Charles Crawford (ACB)

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Kay Eslinger" <ekesee1997@juno.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 10:20 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To Whom it May Concern:

I very strongly support video/audio description for television as well as movies. When I was sighted, going to the movies was a much loved entertainment and I did it often. However, after I lost all of my vision, I found going to the theater more a lesson in frustration, then enjoyable. My husband was an even greater fan of the theater than I, but he rarely goes now because he feels so uncomfortable describing the movie to me. Because I also have a slight hearing loss, the people around us are also disrupted by his description. As a result both of us are missing out on an entertainment which we once enjoyed.

Even more frustrating, are the times when I am watching television alone and there is no auditory indication of what is going on. One example of this is a JAG from a couple of years ago. Mac and Harm were together in Australia. They were talking to each other with the sexual tension that has been between them for some time. Their dialogue suggested that they were getting very intense as well as possibly intimate, then there was only music. I did not find out for weeks what happened during that scene. I called and asked several people but nobody that I called had seen it that evening. This scene stands out because after several weeks, a friend who did tell me simply said oh yes I think that they kissed. More recently, another JAG was done in such a way that the same characters flipped back and forth between different scenes. Although, I knew something seemed odd, I could not quite figure out what context the flashbacks were and even in some cases when they occurred. My husband was able to help me with a later portion of this show, but the beginning was very frustrating.

As you can see by the above examples, not having access to video description really does take away from my ability to enjoy these forms of entertainment. Because we typically like to go out as a couple or with other couples, it has also limited my husband's ability to enjoy this form of entertainment.

Sincerely,

Kay Eslinger

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**From:** "jimndeb" <jimndeb@knology.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 7:18 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

My husband and I are both blind and support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order. I need video description implemented on schedule in April.

Thank you.

Deborah and Jimmy Gibson

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Carolyn Rothermel" <csr031918@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 4:39 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description!

March 3, 2002

Mr. William Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20554.

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Caton:

I support Video Description and strongly object to the movie, cable, and broadcast industries' request to further postpone equity! Please do not retreat from your order to implement video description on schedule in April.

I have been blind for more than half of my life now, over twenty years. I have wished that video was more accessible to me. I used to enjoy watching television, but now I seldom do so because I have no wish to be left wondering what happened or, even worse, how the program ended. I well remember a few years ago, listening to a movie which ended in total silence. I had no idea what had happened and was very frustrated. I am quite sure you would not choose to read a book if you knew in advance that every so often a few pages here & there were missing or if the last few pages were gone. I am sure, too, you would not long watch a program with the screen turned off. Please see that I, too, can listen to programs confident that I will know what is going on.

Sincerely yours,  
Carolyn Rothermel  
4252 Scokian Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Karen Bays" <ksbays@bellsouth.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 6:28 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket no. 99-339

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing to ask you to hold firm to the April 2002 deadline for the implementation of audio description. It is my understanding that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America filed a petition to stay the implementation of narrative description until there is a decision on a court appeal.

I find the entire response of these groups to be irresponsible and weak. These organizations are traditionally leaders in innovation and communication. They are failing to see that narrative description is a form of improved communication. More importantly, it is an access issue. It is a quality of life issue enabling others to better enjoy and appreciate the product they are offering. Why they have chosen to discriminate against those of us who are visually impaired and blind by not offering us a quality service that provides equal understanding and enjoyment of their programming is beyond my comprehension.

As a blind person I find programming with narrative description to be extremely enjoyable. I did not realize how much of plots and story lines I was missing out on by not having information of what was happening visually. I have watched movies before where I totally missed the ending because I could not see what happened. Frequently, a story line has been left up to my own interpretation of what is happening...and frequently I have been wrong. Narrative description eliminates this confusion and makes this great American past time one that I can enjoy equally.

Again, I ask you to enforce the April 2002 deadlines for implementation of narrative description.

Sincerely,

Karen Bays

2344 S. England St.

Charleston, SC 29214

Phone: (843)571-2778

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Tammy Klaus" <tammy.kl@verizon.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 5:44 AM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description

To: Mr. William Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 15th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 29554

Re: MM docket #99-339

Dear Mr. Caton:

As a visually impaired person, I am outraged at the video media industry's heinous and under-handed stunt requesting a stay in the implementation of the video descriptive rule. The industry has had plenty of time to present concerns to both the FCC and the blind community. Personally I think the industry's request should be denied out-right because of such a sneaky trick.

Had the industry bothered to consult with us, the people who want and need video description, they would have found that we are, as a whole, reasonable. We would have listened to any concerns the media had. In fact, we would have gladly worked with the industry to find solutions to any problems that would have satisfied both sides of this issue.

The movie, cable, and broadcast industry does not earn my respect, or that of tens of thousands of other Americans. Their grievous action certainly counters their contention that they are "socially responsible." Actions speak louder than words, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my hope that the FCC will enforce the April implementation of the DVS rule. Too many blind and visually impaired Americans are being denied access to information that the sighted public enjoys. This is a travesty in a time when DVS is not only possible from a technical standpoint, but affordable to produce. Just ask WGCB, PBS and a few others who have been producing TV programs, movies, etc. with DVS.

Equal access means just that, EQUAL!! Blind people watch TV, and go to movies, just like everyone else. If a movie theater for example, would forbid patrons of any certain race, color, or ethnic background, society would be outraged. By not including DVS, the industry is basically is denying us access. Prejudice is prejudice.

For 30 or 40 years, hearing impaired individuals have benefited from close captioning on TV and movies. Do the blind not deserve the same privileges? Are WE actually the "children of a lesser God"?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tammy Klaus  
319 Second Street  
New Cumberland, PA 17070-2102  
tammy.kl@verizon.net

Mr. William Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 15th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 29554  
Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Caton,

As a researcher participating in developments of technology to improve the independence of people with disabilities and enhance the participation of persons who are blind in all aspects of public activity, I strongly urge your Commission to continue its support of video description of programming available to sighted citizens. It is estimated by social communications researchers that 80% of interpersonal communication occurs within the context of non-verbal cues. From this standpoint alone, *video description* is necessary as a “**reasonable accommodation**” in answering the lack of these important non-verbal cues provided by video media.

In addition, films and television are necessarily very different media forms than radio and written information. In films and television, visual information drives the medium and the programming is structured (the “story” is told) with the assumption that the “viewers” are receiving an overwhelming percentage of the programming information visually. Video description would greatly enhance the ability of those who cannot see the presentation to nevertheless more fully participate in all aspects of it.

Significant amounts of energy, money and sweat have gone into (and continue in) research and the successful development of technologies which provide accommodations to people with disabilities. Video description is mature, both in the technology and the programmatic aspects of creating and transmitting the new information (scripting, integrating into the program, transmitting the integrated information, etc.).

It would be a sad irony to throw away such a valuable opportunity. Video description is necessary for the integration of blind persons’ participation in this most important educational and entertainment vehicle in our modern society.

William F. Crandall, Jr., Ph.D.  
Scientist  
Smith-Kettlewell  
Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center  
on Blindness and Low Vision  
2318 Fillmore Street  
San Francisco, CA. 94115  
415-345-2111  
[bc@ski.org](mailto:bc@ski.org)  
[www.ski.org/rehab/wcrandall](http://www.ski.org/rehab/wcrandall)

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Jacqueline Stehr" <JStehr@xrds.org>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 12:22 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To the Federal Communications Commission:

Congratulations for supporting and standing by your decision on video description for blind or partially sighted people. Please do all you can to ensure that this programming starts in April 2002.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Stehr

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Malley, Rick" <RMalley@Stavros.org>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 12:43 PM

I support the legislation to continue Video and Television description. The individuals who are blind or visually disabled have been discriminated enough. It's time for all of us to equally enjoy the benefits of TV and Video.

Sally Dodge  
71 Maple St  
Belchertown, Ma 01007

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Dinesh Desai" <ladesai@worldnet.att.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 1:01 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

This is a very important service for the blind and visually impaired.  
FCC needs to do its' best to help such people live more fulfilling  
lives.

Dinesh Desai  
Los Altos, CA

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Deena Smith" <dsmith@starcenter.tn.org>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2002 9:25 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To the Secretary of the FCC

I am writing to express my objection to the request of the movie, cable, and broadcast industry to further postpone adding video description to their programing (MM docket number 99-339). All citizens have the right to public access of information, and this includes the visually impaired. The media need to become responsible and stop just talking about being accessible. Please deny their request and let's celebrate in April when all people will be able to understand the media.

Thank you,

Deena Smith, COMS  
60 Lynoak Cove  
Jackson, TN 38305

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Elizabeth Eagan Satter" <eleagan@onebox.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 2:31 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

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Elizabeth Eagan Satter  
eleagan@onebox.com - email  
(713) 595-2101 x3669 - voicemail/fax

I support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order.  
I need video description implemented on schedule in April.

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**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** <d.p.pickett@att.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 1:29 PM  
**Subject:** I support Video and movie description

Jim Pickett for Macon Georgia Council of the Blind.

All our current members support this issue. We have 28 members.

Sincerely, Dorothy and Jim Pickett

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** <CoriKeys@aol.com>  
**To:** <Info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 11:48 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

In reference MM docket number 99-339, staying the implementation of video description is sentencing thousands of Americans to no television at all. What are you thinking of? Where's our socially responsible society we supposedly live in? Please reconsider.

Cori Westcott  
309 Ballwin Ave.  
Ballwin, MO 63021