

Greenwald, Eliot

From: TDIEXDir@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 4:21 PM
To: michael.powell@fcc.gov
Cc: kevin.martin@fcc.gov; kathleen.abernathy@fcc.gov; michael.copps@fcc.gov; jonathan.adelstein@fcc.gov; Dane.Snowden@fcc.gov; TCHANDLE@fcc.gov
Subject: Spanish translation of Public Notice

Dear FCC Chairman Michael Powell,

It has come to my attention that a document pertaining to Spanish users of TRS services has not yet been translated into Spanish. This document, if translated would empower deaf Spanish citizens to take part in American democracy. We refer to the recent public notice the FCC issued early this week asking for comments to the petitions for reconsideration filed by National Video Relay Service Coalition and other parties. We were asking that the FCC reconsiders its decision not to reimburse Video Relay Service vendors for providing services between those that use American Sign Language, and the other party on these calls, that converse in Spanish.

The issue herein concerns the multilingual translation from an ASL user to someone who speaks Spanish. The regulations allows for VRS service between English and sign language, that is already two languages, why not VRS service between sign language and Spanish?.

I also understand that the FCC has a section on its website devoted in Spanish to address the needs of this rapidly growing minority group. The Spanish deaf community demographics have similar ratios to their hearing counterparts that our deaf citizens have with the American public.

In the past, the FCC has implemented regulations affecting Spanish TRS users and Spanish captioning viewers. We urge you to continue upholding FCC's practice of being open to all American citizens, English/Spanish, spoken/signed, video/text/voice users, deaf/hearing and others.

Please expedite the translation of this document so that every stakeholder who uses English, Spanish and sign language may be able to participate in this proceeding.

Sincerely,
Claude Stout
Executive Director
Telecommunications for the Deaf
(Member of National Video Relay Service Coalition)