



*Creating solutions, changing lives.*

*Helping people with disabilities  
gain greater independence.*

**Easter Seals**

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April 15, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Transfer of licenses from Nextel Wireless to SprintWireless, WT Docket  
No. 05-63

Dear Chairman Martin,

For more than 85 years, Easter Seals has been providing services that help children and adults with disabilities gain greater independence. Our primary services – medical rehabilitation, job training and employment, child care, adult day services, and camping and recreation -- benefit more than 1 million individuals with disabilities and their families each year through more than 500 centers nationwide.

Easter Seals is committed to promoting equal access to all facets of life for people with disabilities, including access to personal and business communications services and technologies. Over the years, Easter Seals has been a leading advocate on access to telecommunications for people with disabilities including the telecommunications provisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 255 of the Telecom Act, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the passage and reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act.

Easter Seals recognizes the unique and important role of Sprint in helping people with disabilities use and benefit from telecommunications. Sprint is the nation's largest provider of telecommunications relay services (TS) for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, providing innovative services like Internet Relay, Video Relay, and CapTel. The Sprint services and technologies are critical to the independence of people with disabilities.

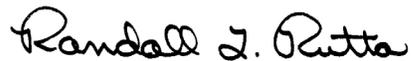
In 2000, Sprint initiated Project Connect, a program that is administered by the Electronic Industries Foundation. The project enables people to donate outdated or unused mobile telephones that are the refurbished or recycled, and a small donation going to Easter Seals and other charities for each phone donated. Income to Easter Seals from Project Connect goes directly to support local services to children and adults with disabilities.

This commitment by Sprint to serving customers with disabilities is to be commended. It is our desire that this merger, if approved by the FCC, would result in this commitment being continued into the business communications sector through Nextel's prominence in that field. With unemployment for people with disabilities being higher than any other population, it is critical that all potential barriers to employment be eliminated. With increased access to business communication services and technologies in the workplace, employment opportunities currently unavailable to people with disabilities may become available.

Easter Seals supports the merger of Sprint and Nextel and urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve the merger in the public interest.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall L. Rutta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Randall L. Rutta  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations