

On January 27, 2006, George L. Lyon, Jr., counsel for Hands On sent the following email to CGB Chief Monica Desai, Assistant Chief Jay Keithley and Disability Rights Office Chief Thomas Chandler:

Re: Sorenson January 24, 2006 ex parte filing Docket 03-123

This email will briefly respond on behalf of Hands On Video Relay Services, Inc. to a point made in the above referenced ex parte filing. Sorenson asks that any requirement that providers remove blocking mechanisms from equipment they supply to consumers not become effective until after July 1, 2006. Hands On believes such a decision would be detrimental to consumers and is completely unnecessary. Sorenson's blocking of consumer access to competitive providers is accomplished by blocking the IP addresses of those providers. Sorenson can accomplish such a block within days of a new VRS provider coming on line. If Sorenson can block a provider within days, Sorenson can surely unblock a provider within days of notice of the FCC decision. Accordingly, Hands On urges the Commission to require unblocking within 30 days of the effective date of its order. This should be well enough time for Sorenson to unblock competitors from its consumer equipment.

One additional issue needs discussion. Upon the elimination of provider blocking of competitors, there may be a temporary dislocation of the market as consumers are free to choose any provider over which to route VRS traffic which may adversely effect answer speed. Accordingly, HOVRS would request that the Commission temporarily waive the answer speed requirement for a period of 90 days after its decision to require providers to cease blocking access to competitors.

In accordance with the ex parte rules, a copy of this email will be filed in Docket 03-123.