May 2007

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket No. 03-123; TRS Fund – Drastic VRS Rate Cuts

Dear Chairman Martin,
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, And Tate:

I am a hearing person and use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate with other deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other hearing and Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people

- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities - Improve service and technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications services is met

I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

Signature

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