

My name is LuRetta Fairman. I support providing training to potential Speech-to-Speech (STS) users. In my professional life and personal contacts over the past 25 years, I have encountered and worked with a number of speech-impaired individuals for whom communication through speech was exceedingly challenging. Speech-To-Speech can provide vital communications assistance. It is critically important that these persons be provided with training so that they can make use of this essential service.

I am writing today to ask that California's application for TRS recertification include a comprehensive plan to train a majority of prospective users to use STS.

Speech-to-Speech has been a relay service that has worked. It has aided an ever increasing number of speech disabled consumers to attain functional equivalency. It has been the best answer to fulfilling the promise of Section 225 of the Communications Act for this population. This act requires that the FCC ensure that both "interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services are available, to the extent possible, to . . . speech-impaired individuals." Presently, the state appears to be violating the spirit of section 225.

A large proportion of people with speech disabilities cannot advocate for themselves. Therefore, I am doing that. Every speech disabled person has the right to know how to use STS. Please ensure that California's recertification plan includes adequate funding for a comprehensive statewide training for all potential users.

Sincerely,

LuRetta Fairman