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This letter concerns the recertification of Speech-to-Speech (STS), which is part of the national Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS). Please be aware that Speech-to-Speech has been a successful program to date and is in need of more funding to assist in consumer education by this state. Please protect the state's speech-disabled population by including an outreach plan for STS in the recertification process. Section 225 of the federal Communications Act requires that the FCC ensure that both "interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services are available, to the extent possible, to . . . speech-impaired individuals." The State of California's goal should be functional equivalency in both service and consumer education. Presently, the state appears to not be carrying out the spirit of section 225.

Do not let a thriving program, that is aiding an ever increasing number of people with speech disabilities, simply die out from lack of funding for consumer education. The FCC should act now to raise awareness of Speech-to-Speech, by certifying Speech-to-Speech and increasing funding. Funding for 'functional equivalency' in information about STS is funding the public good!

Sincerely yours,

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Sacramento, CA