

Dear Commissioners:

The decisions that you will be making soon about 9-1-1 access are very important to deaf, speech impaired people. We are the only group of people in the United States who are barred from using 9-1-1 simply because we happen to have hearing or speech problems. This is not fair. This is not safe. This is not the functional equivalency that the law requires. Please fix this NOW.

We need 10-digit phone numbers for our videophones NOW. We want to be able to register for a phone number, and to be able to give it to hearing people, put down on job applications, on mortgage applications, etc. Please make this happen.

We want our phone numbers to be a part of the same neutral third party system that handles phone calls for hearing people. We do not want "different" or "special." It is possible that a special system could be developed for us years into the future, but why? The current system managed by NPAC could handle our videophone numbers in just a few months. "Special" and "different" are just nice words for inferior.

Please make sure that deaf people are included in the same system used by others.

Many thanks.

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