



ILLINOIS PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

March 9, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CSR-8126, ACM *et al*, MB Docket No. 09-13

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Illinois Podiatric Medical Association (IPMA) urges the FCC to grant this petition to protect public, education and government (PEG) Access, the local, noncommercial channels that are expressly devoted to serving the public. In Chicago, IPMA uses Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV) as an important means to reach viewers in need of our services. This petition details ways in which AT&T's U-Verse system places PEG channels at a disadvantage with inferior technology in comparison to other channels on its system. For our organization, that means losing the connection with local viewers that enables us to extend our services to the community via television.

IPMA provides a vast variety of medical advice on foot discomfort, particularly as it concerns diabetic foot care and treatment. We aim to provide the most up-to-date, useful and factual information to present to our visitors, all for free, on local PEG channels to residents of Chicago. Our service is important because it offers individuals the opportunity to talk to a doctor about a medical concern or issue, which may prompt them to seek medical treatment.

Our programming needs to be easily accessible to viewers, not placed in an inferior format that viewers will have difficulty finding and using. Fair policies and regulations must prevent discriminatory practices like this, particularly given the vast resources and capabilities of large companies like AT&T. As one of our Chicago educators said in addressing the problems with AT&T's U-Verse PEG product, "out of sight can mean out of mind."

We urge you to act in the public interest by decisively granting this petition.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Brezinski, DPM
President

cc: James N. Horwood