

Comment Docket number 03-123

Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone is a national, non-profit (501c3) organization that protects the telephone rights of people with speech disabilities.

We want to take the opportunity to support the recommendations made by TDI and the other consumer groups in their filing of March 2, 2009. We support the recommendations concerning the Disability Rights Office. We agree that DRO needs to be “a stand-alone, independent office that provides oversight function to ensure that all FCC proceedings and policies are consistent with the overall goal of ensuring access by people with disabilities to emerging technologies”. We also support the consumer group’s recommendation concerning E911, as well as their position that Universal Service Fund support should be used to subsidize low-income deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind individuals in their purchase of broadband service (through the Lifeline and Link-up programs) and to defray the cost of specialized telecommunication devices needed by people who are deaf-blind. In addition, we urge that these USF subsidies also be made available to low-income people with speech disabilities.

*Bob*

Bob Segalman, Ph.D., Sc.D. (Hon.), Founder of Speech-to-Speech  
President, Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone, Inc.  
515 P Street, #403; Sacramento, CA 95814

Rebecca Ladew, B.S, M.S.  
Speech Disabled Representative, Maryland Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications  
Relay  
Hearing/Speech Representative, Interstate TRS Fund Advisory Council  
East Coast Liaison, Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone, Inc. (SCT)  
1608 Roundhill Road  
Baltimore. MD 21218  
410-467-0967  
Email: rebecca.ladew@verizon.net  
Website: <http://www.beckyspeaks.org>