

As a person with a significant hearing loss, who can voice for myself, I'm writing to emphasize how important CapTel relay services are for me and others like me. CapTel gives the closest thing to a regular voice phone call. It allows me to hear what I can with the captioning filling in for what I can't hear clearly. This is all done in an efficient manner, with the captions being provided with minimal time delay. Recently, my cochlear implant equipment was not working, and I was left functionally deaf - although I could still speak. Having CapTel available to me was life-altering and life-saving. The other types of relay services are cumbersome, inefficient and a poor alternative to CapTel captioned telephone service. I had to use them for many years - and welcomed the technological advancements that CapTel brings. Having access to CapTel should not have to rely on what state one lives in - it should be available in all states. I urge the FCC to mandate CapTel service in all states.

Arlene Romoff

President, Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey