

As the President of an International organization representing approximately 4,000 persons in 60 countries (ISAAC, a NGO), I want to support my colleague, Dr. Bob Segalman, and his life long efforts for Video Assisted Speech-to-Speech (VAS) through the organization of Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone, Inc. In NBP Public Notice # 27 the FCC asks how it can encourage innovation in the market for video devices that will assist the Commission's development of a National Broadband Plan. The FCC can do this by taking steps toward making Video Assisted Speech-to-Speech (VAS) a reimbursable part of VRS. Such authorization would encourage innovation of services and equipment to meet this need. While the general process is applicable to VAS, equipment and services must be specific to the unique needs of this population. Of the 4 million Americans with speech disabilities that do not accompany hearing disabilities, a significant proportion could benefit from "Video-Assisted Speech-to-Speech (VAS)". These are people who do not speak well enough to use the currently FCC mandated telephone relay service for people with speech disabilities called "Speech-to-Speech". VAS would be the only way that this population can access the telephone for emergencies and non-emergencies.

Please attend to this extremely important issue. My sincere appreciation on behalf of members of the disability communities.