

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. My sister is an employee of a Video Relay Service (VRS) provider. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally-equivalent" communications. These proposals would put an end to VRS as we know it. Her employer has already informed her that if these proposed rates are adopted, her company would head into bankruptcy. This would be disastrous for deaf VRS users and her company. Which would impact her and the family she is supporting.

Progress towards functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology and continues to improve services levels. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters and better videophones with an array of enhanced features.

These proposals would put an end to VRS as we know it. My employer has already informed me that if these proposed rates are adopted, her company would head into bankruptcy. This would be disastrous for deaf VRS users.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Bart Walker