

TO FCC:

I was informed today by my employer that this rate proposal would lead our company into bankruptcy, and put myself and thousands of others out of a job. According to my employer, the rates are so low that it would mean and end to VRS as we know it today, and all the progress that has been made over the past few years to achieve "functional equivalence" as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act would be lost.

Please pay attention to the comments and submissions made by the companies who have invested millions into providing this vital service for Deaf people in America. As an employee of a company which has taken the lead in developing the technology to provide this vital link that connects deaf people to the hearing community, I am very concerned that this service might be jeopardized by your proposed changes.

Progress towards functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

Recent reports of fraud in the VRS industry are disturbing to employees who work for a company that has operated within current FCC guidelines and has worked to maintain the integrity of the VRS fund. The FCC must devote more of its time and energy to focusing on the elimination of fraud.

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,

Rudy Unger