

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 have been a sign Language interpreter for over 30 years. And in the years of my association with the deaf community, the two event that have most radically improve the quality of the lives of our deaf citizens have been the passing of the American with Disabilities ACT and the establishment of Video-relay services. In the past 6 years I have seen to the growth of VRS and as a VRS interpreter with Gallaudet University and Sorenson Communication, I have had the a first hand look at how communication through VRS has improved the live of deaf consumers. I am shocked and dismays at the FCC's new proposed rate of reimbursement plan for the largest VRS provider seems to be designed to end Video-Relay as we know it.

Sorenson Communication as the largest provider of VRS in the U.S. is in large part responsible for the exponential growth VRS by providing free video-phones to deaf citizens. These video-phones, coupled with top notch interpreting service provided by Sorenson's highly trained interpreting professionals, have certainly bridged the communication chasm between deaf people and their families, medical and legal professionals, local business, employers, schools, and a host of other entities. Deaf profession and employee now have job opportunities open to them which were previously closed to them due to communication barriers. VRS has revolutionized the Deaf world!

It is difficult to express the enormous benefits VRS has brought to the lives of deaf people in this country. Hence, it is certainly baffling that the FCC would adopt a reimbursement scheme which would most certainly bankrupt the largest provider of video relay service, by proposing are reimbursement rate of \$3.89. As Tier II providers would be reimbursed at a rate of \$6.03, the Tier III rate would be a disincentive for any of the Tier II providers to attempt to fill Sorenson's shoes as moving up to the next tier would penalize them for their growth. Unless the FCC has decide it wants to roll back the clock on VRS and the live of deaf citizens, the proposed rate make absolutely no sense at all.

I implore the FCC to find a rate structure that would fairly compensate the best VRS providers for the excellent service they provide to our deaf citizens and insure that VRS will continue to grow and enhance the live of our deaf citizens.

Sincerely

John G. Lewis