

I am writing to you to implore you to give proper funding to the VRS/Sorenson phone relay system for the Deaf. This service is not an luxury-it is a necessary way of life for proper and equal communication for Deaf/hearing impaired people. Of all the relay systems, Sorenson is the biggest and most professional one and has proven its vital need in the Deaf community for several years.Both hearing and non-hearing people depend on this form of communication to talk with each other from emergencies to family/friends contact and doing the daily tasks of life. Privacy in making doctor's appts to ordering things online is not just for hearing people. This is 2010 and I find it maddening that we still need to have this conversation!

As a professional Sign Language interpreter,I would like to say that any thing less the most high tech and streamlined way to communicate is not acceptable for the Deaf citizens of our great country. PLEASE review your decision and do what is right for the Deaf population and those of us who serve them

Clarenda G. Johnson