

To Whom it may concern,

I am an educational interpreter for the Deaf. For years, my students have not had the same access to the telephone as the hearing students have. Hearing people take for granted using the telephone. As soon as a hearing person can talk, they are on the phone talking to grandma, friends, or just answering the phone for mommy and daddy. Deaf children, up until the video phone, were not able to do this. If a hearing child has problems with their homework, they can call a classmate for help. Again, up until the video phone, a deaf child was not able to do this. Even calling 911 has been a problem for a deaf person. Prior to the video phone, if a deaf person wanted to call 911 they could but they were not able to communicate what the emergency was. So either the wrong emergency service might be sent (causing a delay to help the situation) or police, fire, and medical was sent at the same time. (causing an additional and unnecessary expense to the city)

The video phone has allowed equal access to communication as a hearing child. Please do not take this away from them!