

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
Telecommunications Relay Services and)
Speech-to-Speech Services for) CG Docket No. 03-123
Individuals with Hearing and Speech)
Disabilities)

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Citizen's of SE Pennsylvania
Comments on 2010 VRS Rate Public Notice**

We, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Citizens of Delaware Valley, with 400 members, have been discussing the issue of proposed rates for VRS in which you asked for comments and feedback. As you are certainly aware, the proposal has stirred up much commotion and distress within the deaf and hard of hearing community throughout the nation on account of Sorenson's Video Relay Service's (VRS) scare tactics into getting support from countless citizens that have little understanding of the process by which the proposed rates were determined. Many of us in retrospect regretfully signed a petition against the proposed rates presented to us by a Sorenson representative when told that Sorenson VRS will "go bankrupt." on account of the "low" proposed rates. We were fortunate to have knowledgeable people within our ranks to help us understand the whole situation. We appreciate this opportunity to share our reactions after having studied the matter.

First we want to express our appreciation to Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Bureau Chief, for her message of reassurance of FCC's recognition of and support for VRS and commitment to protect the VRS program so that sign language users and hearing people can finally communicate easily with each other via telecommunication devices.

We recognize that without seeing the data regarding the costs of running a VRS business, we are not qualified to comment on the fairness of the rates proposed. We as a group support the position of 7 national consumer organizations of the deaf (collectively, the "Consumer Groups")*. In summary, we agree with the Consumer Group's statement, which is quoted below:

"The Consumer Groups also express in these comments their strong desire for high quality VRS technology, highly qualified and certified interpreters, improved speed of answer requirements, consumer marketing and outreach, customer service and training, technical assistance, research and development, and other activities necessary to continue moving towards functional equivalency. To this end, the Consumer Groups urge the Commission to ensure that the rates established for the 2010-2011 Fund year reasonably compensate VRS providers for the pursuit of functionally equivalent telecommunications services."

We thank you for your support in ensuring high quality and functional equivalence in telecommunications for deaf and hard of hearing citizens. Relay services play a major role in leveling the playing field in all areas life: in social development and interaction; in employment and job opportunities; and in enhancing the quality of life for all of us.

Sincerely yours,

John DiNubile ,President, DHHSCDV

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*Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (“TDI”)
Association of Late-Deafened Adults, Inc. (“ALDA”)
National Association of the Deaf (“NAD”)
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network
 (“DHHCAN”)
California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 (“CCASDHH”)
American Association of the Deaf-Blind (“AADB”), and
Hearing Loss Association of America (“HLAA”)

DHHSCDV:LJB