

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Received & Inspected

MAY 27 2010

FCC Mail Room

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,

Video Relay Service allows deaf individuals to communicate by phone in American Sign Language. This life-altering broadband service is a vital link that connects deaf people to the hearing community.

Ensuring that deaf individuals have access to VRS and encouraging improvements in VRS should be a high priority for you as Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally equivalent" communications.

You will soon determine the future of VRS. When you set the VRS rate, you will determine whether America makes progress toward the statutory goals of functional equivalence, nationwide access, and inclusion – or force deaf users to revert to TTY communications. And, you will determine whether VRS fulfills its potential to drive broadband adoption by the deaf, even in the face of disproportionate poverty, disenfranchisement, and isolation.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. These proposals will put VRS providers out of business and mean an end to VRS.

You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward 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.

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,

Signature



Date

5/18/10

Name

Toriano A. Tolmie

Address

3910 Jasper Way

City

Miramar

State

FL

ZIP

33025

Email

Toriano@softacil.org

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Sincerely,

Signature *Jean M. George* Date 5/18/10

Name Jean M. George

Address 17820 N.W. 72 AVE

City Miami State FL ZIP 33056

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely,

Signature Manuel J. Hernandez Date 5/18/10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely,

Signature Talia Smart Date 5/18/10

Name TALIA SMART

Address 675 NW 56 THRD 108

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely,

Signature Doralis Otero Date 5-19-2010

Name Doralis Otero

Address 3961 W 9th Lane

City ~~MIAMI~~ MIAMI State FL ZIP 33012

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely,

Signature Alfredo Abad Date 5.19 2010

Name Alfredo Abad

Address 3961 W 9th Lane

City Miami State FL ZIP 33013

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Sincerely,

Signature Lauralee Estrell Date 5-19-10

Name Lauralee M. Estrell

Address 15600 S.W. 103rd Pl

City Miami State FL ZIP 33157

Email sexylady45@tmail.com

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Sincerely,

Signature



Date

5/19/2010

Name

Andrew Smith Jr

Address

10425 S.W. 169 Terr

City

Miami

State

FL

ZIP

33157-4199

Email

JAMESTOPPERA22@aol.com

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Signature



Date

5/18/10

Name

Preston Noel

Address

6660 Biscayne Blvd

City

Miami

State

FL

ZIP

33138

Email

preston@softacil.org

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Signature  Date 5/18/10

Name LATOJA EVANS

Address 20410 NW 25th Ave

City Miami Gardens State FL ZIP 33056

Email latoya@soflacil.org

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Sincerely,

Signature Victor Gonzalez Date 5-18-2010

Name Victor Gonzalez

Address 1060 NW 78 St Bld

City Miami State FL ZIP 33138

Email Victor@sofla.cit.org

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Sincerely,

Signature Gilberto Gonzalez Date 5/18/10

Name Gilberto Gonzalez

Address 1550 North Miami Avenue

City Miami State FL ZIP 33136

Email \_\_\_\_\_

The attached document is part of a mass mailing. The number of identical documents as specified in the File Number/City, St. field have been received by the Commission on this same date. You may view the documents at the FCC Reference Information Center, at 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington, DC, Room CY-A257.