

My Name is Rox'E Homstad and I'm writing in regards to the accessibility of telecommunications products for persons who are Blind or Deafblind.

I, myself am Deafblind and I can speak for the importance of creating equal access for all. Currently there is only one cellphone which is accessible for both blind and Deafblind out of the box. This is not acceptable and companies need to put into practice the concepts of universal design. Cellphones need to come equipped with text-to-speech capabilities, and with the ability to be paired with a braille display either through a wire, or using wireless connectivity such as bluetooth.

Cellphones these days function almost as a miniature computer. They perform such essential daily functions as running GPS applications, storing contact information, and the ability to keep abreast with family and coworkers via email, sms and telephone. The Blind and Deafblind need equal access to these crucial functions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rox'E Homstad dip H.