

My name is Alco Canfield and I have been totally blind since early childhood.

Fortunately, my frustration with inaccessible cell phones ended when I purchased the i-Phone in February, 2010. This device has built-in accessibility, allowing me to send text and e-mail messages, and do all the things that most cell phone users take for granted.

Before I purchased this phone, I paid full price for cell phones which only allowed me to make and receive calls and access my voice mail. and was able to only use basic features such as making and receiving calls and accessing my voice mail. I could not send or receive email or text messages, set alarms, or browse the internet.

Since acquiring the iPhone, I can do everything mentioned above. There is also a new application which will speak the intersection and direction I am facing. It will also give me five points of interest.

It is wonderful to be able to participate in the Mobile Age at last. I do not mind utilizing a touch screen, but many people who are blind find this difficult.

Most cell phones on the market require the purchase of additional software to make the phone "speak". I appreciate being able to purchase something right off the shelf with accessibility built right in.

I urge you to adopt a regulation which will mandate all cell phone companies to provide built-in speech recognition software so that bl/visually impaired individuals can enjoy the same benefits as everyone else when using these devices. It is unfair that we should have to pay additional costs to make cell phones usable.

Thank you for you! consideration.