

C C 10-210

Subject: FW: Via Correspondences to Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

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MAR - 9 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: gingerjee@aim.com [mailto:gingerjee@aim.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:01 PM
To: Julius Genachowski
Subject: Via Correspondences to Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

As per my conversation with one of your colleagues from FCC departmental offices and several Congressmen's offices in the Western Massachusetts-yesterday, I was asked to submit my feedback correspondences to your "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" by today's date of Friday, the 4th of February 2011. Please find my enclosed statements cited below for your review and via contact me for any questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached at the above email or we can set-up a video conference call through 1.866.552.6591. I would be more than delighted to hear from you and discuss these new proposition on the new technology devices for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind and hard-of-hearing. Also, I was only to view 34 pages of your proposed attachments out of 65 pages. With that, I believe I am missing the information about the "Individualized Assessment of Communication Needs; Installation & Training; Maintenance, Repairs & Warranties; Outreach & Education about NDBEDP; Funding; Oversight & Reporting; Logistic & Division of Responsibilities; Other Considerations; Procedural Matters and Ordering Clauses". I would appreciated if you and FCC can forward me a completed copies of those missing subjects cited above for my review. In hope that you and the FCC will extend this preliminary proposal to next review date(s). As we all know these rulemaking is a long process and we should look into further extensions on those guidelines as well as making revised inputs.

My objection is in reference to the fact that you're only offering or distributing those communication devices for the "deaf-blind" only. I would ultimately like you to **"add-on for those individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing as well as for those late-deafened adults"**. Instead of excluded them. From my expertise in the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities are in greatly needed for these type of technology devices through government's distribution programs. As a result, they (deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened) do not have the resources to pay or obtain the devices and it is in fact, they all have impact for not able to get one on their own due to "financial difficulties" and "lack of communication access in public places". As an Advocate for People with Disabilities and for the Deaf demographically, I have came to know there are many underserved deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals who still face the biggest gap of discrimination in public access and therefore, I do wanted to inform you to check into the previous history timeline of how it were placed "communication accessible" in public places for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. There used to be a TTY or TDD (Telecommunication Teletyped or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) phone specialized for the people who cannot hear or speak. During those time period, there weren't any "public TTY or TDD" available for the deaf americans even though the ADA law passed.

In that note, most deaf and hard-of-hearing from all walk of life and ages have continue to face a horrendous communication barriers in this country. They were either been forced to stop by one of the local disability organizations that have TTY or TDD for them to use. Is this realistic? or is it unfairness? I strongly do not think it is realistic at all and it put them in a very difficult life adjustment. I am speaking of many local, city and government offices have continued to fail providing those TTYs or TDDs in order to make it more public accessible for the deaf and hard-of-hearing americans. So therefore, it is quite obvious that governments may have overlooked at this wonderful potential proposal to help improve "communication access for the deaf, deaf-blind, hard-of-hearing and late deafened american-citizens".

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I ultimately urged you to submit additional categories for the "deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened" to be given the opportunity to apply for the 21st Century Communication Access & Video-Accessibilities' distribution program along with the Deaf-Blind that you indicated as primarily. In fact, for the deaf-blind has a small populations and not many will feel adaptive to use technologies due to their bi-lateral visionary and hearing sensory. However, it's still wonderful idea to assist them more with a better technology that they can explore and use for their own "independent way of life" and "become more sociable" in using the tech gadgets that enabled them with brailles and enlargements.

The real bottom line, I strongly feel that you and the FCC should included the **"Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, Late-Deafened Adults" to be eligible for the 21st Century technology distribution programs regardless of their incomes.** According to the national statistic fact about the "annual earnings for each deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals have not met in a higher income level or equivalent to those who earned higher than their counterparts". I would like to make a suggestion for you to check and research those facts on those "underserved people with hearing disabilities" still do not accomplished the same income median level as others who are non-hearing.

In reference to **"Income Eligibility"**, I would like you to omit this section for eligibility in your distribution program. Perhaps, you can set a fair income bracket for up to \$50K to qualify them in either purchasing or obtaining the communication technologies that they feel suitable with their needs.

Since there are many variety of technology devices available and some newer technologies that offer "deaf-friendly" accessibility and customer-services.

As I stated earlier that the governments like yourselves and the FCC should be looking to improve "communication access" in all public places. As it opposed to the past, the governments have not make any improvements to allow the deaf, deaf-blind, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened to become fully accessible in using their specific technology tools to help facilitate their needs and opted to communicate with other people who are non-hearings.

I am speaking on behalf of myself who is also Deaf and for the Hard-of-Hearing communities at large that **we all should be entitled to receive this 21st Century Communication Access' distribution programs! Regardless of all aspect you indicated for the income eligibilities.**

In reference to **"Disability Verifications"**: I would like you to add-on for the **"Advocate-or-Deaf Counselor from the disabled organizations such as independent living center, the Commission for the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing and other deaf institutions"**- who already have the information recorded in file about the deaf individuals as well as hard-of-hearing. Their information included the copy of audiology reports, casenotes, and other relevant information about the person's deafness or hearing-loss. These additional inputs should be listed under your "disability verification".

In addition to those late-deafened adults, as per my experiences working with senior-citizens who lost their partial hearing have become very difficult for them by making a new life adjustment and to be accustom to learn how to use special technologies or equipments that readily made for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard-of-hearing individuals. There were also some cases of those late deafened adults came back with severely profoundly hearing-loss or deaf from the post-traumatic war-zones in Iraq or Middle East. In this category, I believe their age range from mid-20's to late 30's in both genders. Ultimately, this may be something that you and FCC should be offering additional helps for those victims of war that lost some of their sensory aspect in life. Whether they could be partial visual-impaired or hearing-impaired by the warzone they were in. **They should be eligible for the 21st Century Communication Access as well.**

By far, many of them who returned home from warzones-they still have not recover from their post-stress traumatic (PST) and still undergoing for their recovery treatments to rehabilitate themselves. In fact, those who returned into our country have not yet found stable employment for themselves or to support their family members. I would highly recommended you and FCC to seek additional funds to assist those war of heroes.

In closing, I would like to address the completed and exclusive correspondences to the "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" under the 21st Century Communication Access & Video-Accessibility for these following categories: You should be including the list cited below:

1. Deaf
2. Deaf-Blind
3. Hard-of-Hearing
4. Late-Deafened

These list categories are very important and they all should be entitled to receive the ground-breaking distribution funds by the governments. As noted, they all have continued to face the same gap of communication barriers and therefore, they should deserve more fully access in today's technologies with the help from our governments. As a result, they will be freed from communication barriers and they will become more enriched with their lifestyles as everybody else.

I hope you will consider my views on your pre-proposed rulemaking and let's make the best interest on every category that I indicated above. Ultimately, they are so deserving to be supported by you and FCC and they deserve to be part of our norm society. With your model example will help educating others to view a better community and become more aware of those who with special needs.

Again, please feel free to via contact me by email or phone. Here's my mailing address if you'd like to keep me on your future listing for the next proposal reviews cited below:

POB 722
Kent, Connecticut 06757

Attn: Ginger Jee
Advocate for People with Disabilities
Director for the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Services
Served in NYC, NJ, CT, MASS

I look ultimately to hearing from you and the FCC on the above concerns-shortly.

Best Regards,
Ginger Jee

cc: D.Mason/FCC
R.Crawford/FCC