

Re: Video Assisted Speech- to-Speech (VID STS).

To Whom It May Concern;

The California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit membership organization representing 25 of California's Independent Living Centers (ILCs) and the consumers they serve. The ILCs are consumer led, community based organizations that serve Californians with a wide variety of disabilities including those with speech and/or hearing impairments.

CFILC and its members support upgrading Telephone Relay Services to include Video assisted Speech to Speech. This enhancement to STS would improve communications for people with speech impairments by providing a trained operator who would have the additional visual cues provided by the video, to help in interpreting for the caller. The addition of video would be especially helpful for many people who's speech is too distorted for traditional STS.

Speech to Speech and other Telecommunication Relay Services provide vital communication links for people with speech and/or hearing impairments. CFILC urges the FCC to include Video Assisted STS in Telecommunication Relay Services and encourages the use of all technologies that can improve communications for Americans with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Teresa Favuzzi, MSW
Executive Director