

I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the Video Assisted Speech-to-Speech proposal. I am a probable consumer of VID STS, father of an 11 year old son who is a potential user, and a teacher of Political Science with an interest in disability rights and assistive technology issues.

I had a stroke in 1993, and as a result my speech is impaired. Using the telephone is often a frustrating experience, and takes much more time than it should. Having a video complement to the oral communication would help save on time and expense for me, and for the others who I call. Like many other kids his age, my son, Marcus, is a consumer of speech therapy, and many people including me rely on non-verbal cues in discerning what he is saying. For other kids and adults, the reliance on non-verbal cues is much greater, and VID STS would be a great aid.

We often speak of “electronic curb cuts” and the barrier of the telephone is too often an “electronic curb.” I hope that the FCC will mandate access to this technology.