



Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization

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**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554**

Notice of Ex Parte: CG Dockets 10-51 and 03-123

May 13, 2012

Dear Ms. Dortch

On May 4, Mark Hill, President of the Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization (“CPADO”), had a meeting with Greg Hlibok, Disability Rights Office Chief of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) via videophone.

CPADO cordially thanked FCC for the continuance of a dialogue between CPADO and FCC.

During the meeting, we discussed a number of issues relating to the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) released by the Commission on December 15, 2011 (CG Dockets 03-123 and 10-51).

Specifically, the following topics were discussed during the meeting.

First, Mr. Hlibok stated that major aspects of the CPADO letter (submitted on March 7 to FCC), including a “sign to sign” program, with an understanding of how to prevent/minimize abuse or fraud, will be included in a final rulemaking.

We discussed an issue related to where some of these interpreters have had a difficult time understanding the signing of individuals with limited mobility as a result of cerebral palsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and other disabilities.

Mr. Hill gave a few examples on how they have affected them, citing his personal VRS experiences and a recent 911 VRS incident of another deaf man having a heart attack.

As a result, we are not getting the level of competency as expected of interpreters in VRS to achieve functional equivalency under the Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Hlibok acknowledged this critical issue.

Also, we discussed the importance of using a certified deaf interpreter (“CDI”) to facilitate the communication between a deaf person with limited mobility and an interpreter, especially in a 911 call situation.

Mr. Hill had stated that there are about only 100 CDIs in America, as reported by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Thus, we must address this low number of CDIs via additional training and some outreach/education efforts with other stakeholders in the VRS market.

Finally, CPADO really sees the importance of serving all sectors of the deaf and hard of hearing population, including those who are deaf-blind or are deaf along with a mobility disability, with a VRS program to fulfill the mandate with Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When this is truly occurring, we all can experience functional equivalency in relay services. Furthermore, CPADO will continue working with the Commission, other consumer advocacy groups, and representatives of the VRS industry.

Respectfully submitted,

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