

This waiver,, if granted, will run counter to the intent of the CVAA and put blind people further behind; something which was not intended or envisioned when this law was passed. We as blind people have just as much of a right to participate in all forms of communication. If someone who is sighted and receives E-mail or Skype to Skype through their set-top box, then it must absolutely be accessible to those of us who are blind or visually impaired.

There is currently an accessible set-top box which is available in the UK. This box I believe is available through the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). How liberating it would be to have access to the set-top box and be able to make the same choices that our sighted peers can make using their set-top boxes. They can make choices to use on-demand services, Digital Video Recording (DVR) as well as other services and options available through the set-top box. I would love to have access to the menus of these boxes so I can make choices such as receiving video description. Right now I canâ€™t independently access that, or at least not easily, due to the inaccessibility of the set-top box. Right now my husband and I pay for digital cable; but we can't use all of the service due to the inaccessibility of the set-top box. Our rate is not reduced in any way by the cable company due to this fact.

Granting of this waiver will put people who are blind or visually impaired further behind which was not the intent of the CVAA; and therefore this waiver must be denied. Industry needs to be told to put its efforts into accessibility not into getting out of its obligations.