

Chairman Genachowski,

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am a hearing person who knows the importance of functionally-equivalent Video Relay Service (VRS) communication for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. VRS is a tool most of them use every day.

I am concerned about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) recent proposals to change the way VRS works. I can't imagine life without my phone services, and I can't imagine how deaf people would function without their current VRS services.

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) assured deaf people that they would have access to "functionally-equivalent" communication -and to the choices and services similar to those I enjoy. To date, Video Relay Service (VRS) is the most functionally-equivalent communication service for deaf people.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, deaf people will not have choices in their VRS equipment. Hearing people have choices in equipment. Deaf people should, too.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, deaf people will not be given a choice in VRS providers. I wouldn't want my phone calls to be routed through a centralized database that would assign my calls to different providers. Hearing people have a choice in service providers. Deaf people should, too.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect and there are rate cuts for VRS providers, VRS providers will make changes and the quality of VRS will suffer. Hearing people have the choice to choose quality service. Deaf people need quality service, too.

Please fulfill the promises of the ADA for functionally-equivalent VRS for deaf people. Please ensure that the VRS services they currently enjoy are maintained. Jim Underwood