

Chairman Genachowski,

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am not deaf or hard-of-hearing. I am a hearing person who understands the empowering nature of Video Relay Service (VRS) and the way it bridges the communication gap between deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing people.

If the FCC implements its recent proposals and changes the current VRS system, VRS consumers will be the ones who lose! They will lose their option to choose their VRS service provider, based on the features provided and how well it fulfills their communication needs. Routing VRS calls through a central database and taking away a consumer's right to choose does not advance the cause of deaf Americans nor the American With Disabilities Act (ADA).

I am afraid that if the FCC requires VRS consumers to use the same, "off-the-shelf" equipment, there will be no incentive to create innovative and progressive technology that is developed with deaf people's specific needs in mind. I am concerned that deaf people will not have the chance to continue to experience functionally-equivalent equipment and communication. Do not take that away from them! Melissa Lopez