

As a hearing son of two deaf parents, it's essential for VRS to continue. Over the last several years with the roll out of VRS, I've seen my parents and the deaf community become more social and feel inclusive with the world around them. Before VRS my parents expressed how they felt isolated and uninformed about the world around them. TTY never could bring the social/emotional aspects of communication. No matter what comes across a TTY screen, 100 people might interpret the message differently and it takes much longer to get your point across or sometimes misunderstood. I understand the FCC is needs to be fiscally responsible but it shouldn't be on the backs of the deaf community. The competing VRS companies have brought innovation and technology to the deaf community. If the FCC mandates a single software package, it will stifle and exclude the deaf community from the world around them again. Competing VRS companies allows for innovation and future cost savings. I suggest the FCC set standards for VRS companies and mandate interoperability as verified by third party. I also recommend responsible rates and adjusted current federal practices.