

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 lose the ability to choose the VRS service provider who offers the features that best match 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).

There is far too long (and recent) a history of unequal access to information and knowledge in our hearing-centered society. I am afraid that if the FCC requires all VRS consumers to use the same, "off-the-shelf" equipment, there will little incentive to spur innovation and progressive technology 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. Please, do not take that away from them! Anneliese Butler