

Chairman Genachowski,

I am not in favor of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) recent proposals to change Video Relay Service (VRS).

I am a deaf person who uses Video Relay Service (VRS) to do my work. VRS helps me perform my work using equipment that is similar hearing peoples' phones. This functionally-equivalent communication has been a wonderful technological development for those of us who use VRS. Without this reliable service I would not be able to do my job effectively.

My job involves teaching deaf and hearing graduate students to become professionals helping other deaf people, I supervise them in their internships which are off campus and often out of state. VRS equipment allows me to collaborate with them and their supervisors.

I also use VRS to stay in touch with my spouse and children when I am away and with other family out of state. I use VRS to call 911, to schedule medical appointments, and to take care of other necessary personal and family business.

I do not agree with the FCC's proposals to change the equipment we deaf people use on a daily basis. I want choice in my equipment and service. I do not want to be required use products developed for people who are hearing and software required by the government. I want to keep and continue using the unique, quality VRS technology I now use.

I do not agree with cutting rates paid to VRS providers. I'm afraid the FCC's proposals would put some VRS providers out of business, thus affecting the quality the quality VRS service I now use. Do not cut VRS providers' rates!

I want the FCC to continue to support VRS as it is today. I count on it for business as well as personal communication. Do not make the FCC's suggested changes!

Thank you for listening to the needs of consumers who are deaf. Martha Sheridan