

Chairman Genachowski,

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am a hearing person. I care about functionally-equivalent communication for deaf and hard-of-hearing people and about the communication method they currently use: Video Relay Service (VRS).

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) mandated functionally-equivalent communication for deaf people. I am troubled by the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) recent proposals to alter VRS and rate of service for VRS providers. These proposals go against the ADA's mandate. I am very concerned that if these proposals are implemented, VRS providers may be forced to cut services and VRS quality might suffer.

I am also troubled by the FCC's proposal to require deaf people to buy their own "off-the-shelf" equipment - and then install and maintain it. I am also troubled that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, VRS calls will be routed through a centralized database and VRS users may not have the right to choose their service provider.

As a hearing person, I have a right to choose my own communication service and equipment. My deaf friends and family members should enjoy the same rights as I have - the right to choose from competitive equipment that is designed for deaf users

The ADA dramatically changed communication for deaf people for the better! Please continue to protect what the ADA promised: functional equivalency for all.

Thank you. Tom Abuneil