

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket No. 10-51

I am filing a comment on the behalf of my Sophomore class taking the Deaf Studies class at Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. Our teacher brought our attention to the issue brought up by the Federal Communications Commission and we thought we should share our thoughts with you.

Our two concerns are: The single software or application and the rate change for the VRS.

We want to point out our reason for the concern regards the single software or application. We are already using the different options offered by various Video Relay Services companies. If they were to become "one size fits all," then they would not be able to compete or to produce a better products for Deaf people to use in our daily lives. We are already using the products made by Sorenson and ZVRS companies to communicate with Deaf and hearing people, to call restaurants or businesses to communicate via the interpreters. It is unfair if we, Deaf people, have to "suffer" with the limited choice while hearing people have many choice to choose from. We should have the same privileges as hearing people to communicate with the world.

As for our concern regards the rate change for VRS, with the possibility of reduction in the rate being paid to the VRS companies, they may have to reduce the numbers of interpreters, reduce the hours of service, and the quality of interpreters. If the hours of service happen to be reduce from 24 hours to a limited number of hours, then we would not be able to call in case of emergency. Furthermore, our ability to communicate with hearing people at any hours will be affected. The interpreters are the key components of the VRS.

Basically, we are in the opposition of the Public Notice 10-51.

Our ability to communicate with deaf and hearing people are protected by the Americans with Disability Acts so it is essential that our choice remain unlimited.

Thank you for your time reading this comment

Tyhira Jones, Crystal Perez, Stephen Sitko, Khyaire Corley, Joshua Tantoro and Dillon Froggatt.