

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

Received & Inspected

NOV 23 2012

FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am very concerned that the changes being considered by the FCC will destroy a program that is vitally important to people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

I am not deaf, but I know firsthand how VRS works. VRS allows people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to use the "phone" to communicate comfortably and easily just like people who can hear. In this way, it has changed the lives of so many people who are deaf. With VRS they can do the things we take for granted – make a doctor's appointment, call a child's school, or simply order a pizza. VRS puts people who are deaf on a more level playing field.

The changes being considered by the FCC would undo much of this progress. VRS largely relies on highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. These are the people who relay the conversation between the deaf and the hearing participants. The FCC wants to drastically cut the rate they pay VRS companies for providing this service. Obviously, this will have an immediate and negative effect on the ability of VRS companies to employ and train qualified interpreters.

The FCC has also suggested that VRS can be just as effectively provided through government-mandated software that is used on off-the-shelf equipment like common videophones, computers, the iPad, or a smart TV. While such equipment can provide a convenient backup solution, it can't replace the videophones and other technologies provided by VRS providers. These have been specifically designed to take into account the special needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name Mitzi Peterson

Title, if appropriate Daughter of Deaf Parents!

Address 5505 Bryant Ave S. Minneapolis MN 55419

Telephone Number 612-790-7994

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Sincerely,

Name Carol Butler Jr.

Title, if appropriate _____

Address Box 175, New Vienna, Ohio 43159

Telephone Number 937-987-2534

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I am alarmed that the FCC is proposing to dramatically change the VRS program. Why is the FCC going out of its way to fix something that isn't broken?

I think there are two crucial reasons to keep the current VRS system in place.

First, I like the company I do business with. I don't want to be forced to switch companies because the one I work with has gone out of business.

Second, I don't want to have to buy and set up my own VRS equipment. I got my equipment at no cost from my VRS provider. They installed it and continue to maintain it. It would be unfair to now shift this burden to me and other deaf people. If the government wants to prevent deaf people from connecting with others and using VRS, this is a good way to do it.

The VRS program works for people who are deaf. It's how we communicate every day with the hearing world and how the hearing world communicates with us. Any changes to the program must be in the best interest of deaf Americans. The changes being considered by the FCC are not.

Sincerely,

Name John Alejos, Jr

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 12610 Jupiter Rd. 709

Telephone Number 409 522 2815

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VRS has created a more level playing field for people like me who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, empowering us to communicate via videophone with anyone at any time in our native language, American Sign Language. The nature of the work I do requires that I be able to use the phone to communicate with colleagues, clients and business associates regardless of whether they are hearing or deaf. Without reliable, high-quality VRS service I would not be able to do my job effectively.

The changes the FCC is considering would drastically change the nature of the VRS I depend on. One of the aspects of VRS that makes it such an effective way to communicate is the quality of the videophone technology used and the fact that the products provided by VRS companies have been developed specifically with the needs of the deaf – my needs – in mind. Yet, the FCC is considering changes that would, instead, force us to use off-the-shelf products and government-mandated software. Using products developed by and for people who are hearing would be a huge step backwards! The FCC cannot consider this to be a reasonable replacement for the high quality, specialized VRS technology we use every day.

The rate changes being considered by the FCC would also directly affect my ability to access VRS, as well as the reliability and quality of service I depend on. If the FCC slashes the rates paid to VRS providers, as suggested in its Public Notice, many companies will simply stop providing this essential service. This will put me and all members of the deaf community at a significant disadvantage.

In my view, VRS today is a shining example of what Congress intended when it passed the Americans with Disabilities Act 22 years ago. It is absolutely essential that any changes to the current program maintain the access, innovation and reliability that define VRS today.

Sincerely,

Name John Alejos Jr

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 12610 Jupiter . Rd 709

Telephone Number 409527 2815

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Sincerely,

Name John Alejos Jr

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 12610 ~~Maple~~ Jupiter Rd, 709

Telephone Number 469 522 2815

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I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system.

Sincerely,

Name John Alejos Jr

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 12612 Jupiter Rd 709

Telephone Number 4095222815

Rufus Clark, IV
3148 W. Gingerwood Lane
Lancaster, CA 93536
November 15, 2012

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

NOV 23 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Mrs. Marlene Dortch,

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am deaf and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to be in touch with my hearing family, friends and co-workers as well as make calls myself any time of the day or night. I value using this communication service because it empowers me to communicate in a similar way hearing people do.

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) moved deaf people forward and opened up opportunities for us. Now we have access to "functionally-equivalent" communication equipment and services and it should remain. I can't understand why the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing some changes that I do not agree with. Hearing people have choices in their communication equipment and service. Deaf people should have the same choices. I want equipment that is designed especially for me. I also want to be ensured that I can continue to choose my own VRS service provider.

I am also worried that if the FCC's proposed changes - specifically the off-the-shelf equipment since these equipment are not made or designed for deaf people like myself. Also, if the rate cuts for VRS providers - go into effect, there will be less desire for continuous development and competition among VRS providers, hence, quality of my VRS may be affected.

I want to enjoy the benefits of the ADA. I want functional equivalency in every aspect of my communication!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Rufus Clark, IV



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Sincerely,

Name Brenda Howard

Title, if appropriate Please keep for ~~me~~ Ntouch

Address 557 Stewart Ave apt B Columbus, OH 43206

Telephone Number 614-380-1831

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Sincerely,

Name Brenda Howard

Title, if appropriate Keep still

Address 557 Stewart Ave Apt B Columbus, OH 43206

Telephone Number 614-300-1831

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I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system.

Sincerely,

Name Brenda Howard

Title, if appropriate Tenant Not Keep

Address 557 Stewart Ave Apt B Columbus, OH 43206

Telephone Number 614-300-1831

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Second, I don't want to have to buy and set up my own VRS equipment. I got my equipment at no cost from my VRS provider. They installed it and continue to maintain it. It would be unfair to now shift this burden to me and other deaf people. If the government wants to prevent deaf people from connecting with others and using VRS, this is a good way to do it.

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Sincerely,

Name Brenda Howard

Title, if appropriate I said NO cut a touch, that still keep
N TOUCH

Address 557 Stewart Ave Apt B Columbus, OH 43206

Telephone Number 614-300-1831

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I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system.

Sincerely,

Name Harold E. Davis, Jr.

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 1165 Colony DR Apt 123, Westerville, Ohio 43081

Telephone Number (614) 423-6534

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

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Sincerely,

Name Alta J. Curtis

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 1165 Colony Dr. Apt 205, Waverly, Oh. 43081

Telephone Number 614-423-6842

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Sincerely,

Name Marta F. Cortes

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 1165 Colony Dr. Apt 205 Westerville, Oh 43081

Telephone Number 614-423-6842

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Sincerely,

Name CAROL ANN CHEVRE

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 6564 NIZ CHANNEL ROAD FRIEDLEY, MN 55432

Telephone Number _____

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Sincerely,

Name DAVID COGGER 

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 9126 CORAL SEA ST BLAINE MN 55449

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

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NOV 23 2012
FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am very concerned that the changes being considered by the FCC will destroy a program that is vitally important to people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

I am not deaf, but I know firsthand how VRS works. VRS allows people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to use the "phone" to communicate comfortably and easily just like people who can hear. In this way, it has changed the lives of so many people who are deaf. With VRS they can do the things we take for granted – make a doctor's appointment, call a child's school, or simply order a pizza. VRS puts people who are deaf on a more level playing field.

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If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name K. A. Christenson

Title, if appropriate _____

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Sincerely,

Name Mary Reichert

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 200 S 5th St. Mpls. Mn 55402

Telephone Number 763-350-2225

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Sincerely,

Name Michael R. Scully

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 200 S 5 St. Rm 750 Minneapolis Mn. 55402

Telephone Number 763-425-4839

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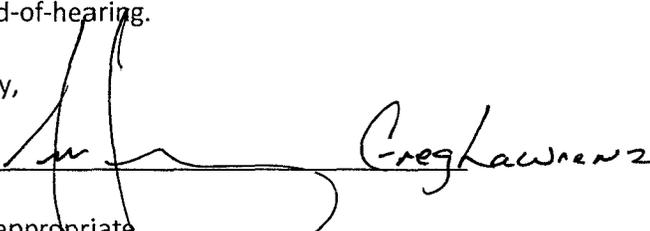
Sincerely,

Name

Title, if appropriate

Address

Telephone Number


Greg Lawrence

8015 174th SW

651-239-6609 (cell)

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Sincerely,

Name Caryn Goodian

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 18541 152ND AV NW DAYTON, MN.

Telephone Number 763-428-4687

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Sincerely,
Name Paige Meurer
Title, if appropriate Engineer II
Address 200 S. 5th St
Telephone Number 651-312-5236

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Sincerely,

Name Michael Cavalli

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 13503 Compton Ct Rosemount MN 55068

Telephone Number 651 344 3460

Michael Cavalli
11/23/12

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Sincerely,

Name Mark L. Sigor

Title, if appropriate SR. Engineer

Address 200 S. 5TH ST. Rm 7, MPLS, MN 55402

Telephone Number 402-574-1604

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Sincerely,

Name Valerie Roering

Title, if appropriate _____

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Telephone Number 763-754-7005

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