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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,

[Signature]

Name [Signature]

Title, if appropriate [Signature]

Address [Signature]

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

FCC Mail Room

Received & Inspected  
NOV 23 2012

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.

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Sincerely,

Name: Carol Butter Jr.
Title, if appropriate: 
Address: Box 175, New Vienna, Ohio 45159
Telephone Number: 937-937-2534

No of Copies rec’d: 0
List ABCDE
I am writing to provide my comments on Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) Public Notice on the “Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates.”

I am deaf and VRS is how I stay in touch with my family and friends who are not deaf. I’m sure that hearing people don’t think about what it means to be able to pick up the phone and call anyone any time or anywhere they want. But for me, this means everything. VRS has changed my life.

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,

John Alejo, Jr

Address: 12410 Imperial Rd, 2019
Telephone Number: 310-952-2815
I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) request for comments on the “Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates.” I am opposed to the changes being considered.

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

Title, if appropriate

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Telephone Number
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Sincerely,

Name

Title, if appropriate

Address

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

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC’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 about these proposals and how they will affect my family’s safety.

VRS is a lifeline. It allows me to conduct business, connect with my family and friends and do many other things over the phone that many hearing people take for granted. Most important, though, VRS is how I access my local emergency 911 service. In an emergency I know that when I place a 911 call it will be answered immediately. My location will be known. And, specially trained American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be there to make sure my local emergency responders know exactly what help I need. You can’t imagine how frightening it is to think that I might not be able to get help for me or my family because of long hold times, poorly trained interpreters, or bad equipment.

Cutting the rates paid to VRS providers as low as the FCC proposes will only reduce service quality I currently depend on. How will these companies hire and keep skilled ASL interpreters on staff when the government has just cut what they are willing to pay them by $2 an hour? How will 911 calls be answered immediately when there are fewer interpreters and longer hold times? How will I know that my VRS will work when I’m using a videophone from WalMart instead of the specially designed videophone from my VRS provider?

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

Sincerely,

Name: John Alfonso Jr.
Title, if appropriate: 
Address: 12012 Jupiter Rd 709
Telephone Number: 410 527 2815
Rufus Clark, IV  
3148 W. Gingerwood Lane  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
November 15, 2012

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

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 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
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: [Signature]
Title, if appropriate: [Signature]
Address: 557 Stewart Ave., Apt. B, Columbus, OH 43206
Telephone Number: 614-390-1831
I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) request for comments on the “Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates.” I am opposed to the changes being considered.

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

Brenda Howard

Title, if appropriate

Epee stilt

Address

557 Stewart Ave. P.O. Box 13 Clumbus, OH 43206

Telephone Number

614-380-1831
I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC’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 about these proposals and how they will affect my family’s safety.

VRS is a lifeline. It allows me to conduct business, connect with my family and friends and do many other things over the phone that many hearing people take for granted. Most important, though, VRS is how I access my local emergency 911 service. In an emergency I know that when I place a 911 call it will be answered immediately. My location will be known. And, specially trained American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be there to make sure my local emergency responders know exactly what help I need. You can’t imagine how frightening it is to think that I might not be able to get help for me or my family because of long hold times, poorly trained interpreters, or bad equipment.

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

Sincerely,

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

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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

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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.

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Name: Brenda Plewaard
Title, if appropriate: I said no cut n touch; that still keep n touch
Address: 557 Stewart Ave, Apt 13 Columbus, OH 43206
Telephone Number: 614-380-1831
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Name

Title, if appropriate

Address   1165 Colony Dr. Apt. 123, Westerville, Ohio 43081

Telephone Number (614) 423-6534
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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Sincerely,

Name ____________

Title, if appropriate _________

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

Telephone Number 614-423-6842

No. of sign: 0+1
I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC’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 about these proposals and how they will affect my family’s safety.

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Sincerely,

Name __________________________

Title, if appropriate __________________________

Address 1165 Along Dr., Apt 205, Westerville, OH 43081

Telephone Number 614-423-4842
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Sincerely,

Name ________________________________

Title, if appropriate ____________________

Address ________________________________

Telephone Number __________________)

Name ________________________________

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Address ________________________________

Telephone Number ____________________

List ABCDE
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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Name  DAVID COGER

Title, if appropriate

Address  9124 CORAL SEA ST BLAWE MN 55449

Telephone Number  763-227-2521
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.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Address]

[City], [State] [Zip]

[Telephone Number]
CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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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,

Mary Keicher

Title, if appropriate

Address

Telephone Number 763 350-2225
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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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Name: [Signature]
Title, if appropriate: [Signature]
Address: 200 S 5 St, Rm 750 Minneapolis Mn. 55402
Telephone Number: 763-425-4839
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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Sincerely,

Name [Signature]

Title, if appropriate

Address 8015 74th St W

Telephone Number 451-239-6680 (cell)
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.

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[Name]

[Title, if appropriate]

[Address]

[Telephone Number]
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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Name

[Name]

Title, if appropriate

[Engineer II]

Address

[200 S. 5th St]

Telephone Number

[451-312-5236]
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.

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Sincerely,

Name: Michael Cavalli
Title, if appropriate: 
Address: 13503 Compton Ct Rosemount MN 55068
Telephone Number: 651-344-3460
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Name

Title, if appropriate  
SR. Engineer

Address  
200 S. 5th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Telephone Number  
612-574-1604
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.

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Sincerely,

Name Valarie Lawing
Title, if appropriate
Address 18081 Evergreen St NW Coon Rapids MN 55448
Telephone Number 763-754-7005