

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

Received & Inspected
DEC 05 2012
FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am a deaf person who uses Video Relay Services (VRS) for my communication with hearing people. VRS is a communication tool I use every day.

I am writing because I am very concerned about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) recent proposals to change the way VRS works. I can't imagine life without the current services I use. I don't want to see those services change!

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) moved deaf people forward and opened up opportunities for us. The ADA assured deaf people (like me) that we will have access to "functionally-equivalent" communication – communication choices and services similar to those enjoyed by hearing people. To date, Video Relay Service (VRS) is the most functionally-equivalent communication service for deaf people.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have what the ADA promised me – choice in my VRS equipment. I want to keep options available in choosing products that were designed for deaf people. I want choices.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have a choice in my VRS provider. I don't want my calls to be routed through a centralized database that would assign my calls to different providers. Hearing people have a choice in service providers. I want a choice.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect and there are rate cuts for VRS providers, the quality of my service will suffer. I'm concerned that with very limited resources, VRS providers might have to make changes that would result in longer hold times and unreliable service. Hearing people have a choice to choose quality service. I don't want VRS quality to suffer because VRS providers have no choice but to cut aspects of their service.

Please fulfill the promises of the ADA! I want functional equivalency. I want choices – in equipment, providers and quality. Please ensure that the VRS services I currently enjoy are maintained.

Sincerely,

Name: *Deanne Townsend*

Title: *Sorensen*

Address: *4225 N. 1st Ave #202 Tucson, AZ 85719*

Telephone Number: *866-417-0320*

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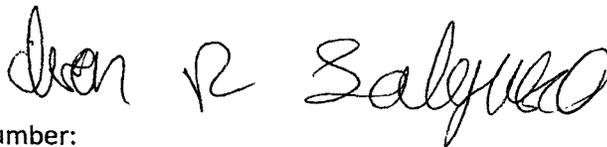
Sincerely,

Name:

Title:

Address:

Telephone Number:



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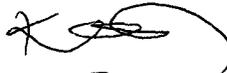
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Sincerely,

Name: 
Kyra Barnes

Title:

Address: 2844 W. Cezanne Cr. Tucson AZ 85741

Telephone Number: 520 468 2870

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Sincerely,

Name: Charles M. Bardo
Title: vocational coordinator
Address: Tucson AZ
Telephone Number: 520-792-1906

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Sincerely,

Name: Vicki L. Harrington

Title:

Address: 268 W. Flavia Pl,

Telephone Number: 520 445-8126

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Sincerely,

Name:

Title:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Christopher Downes = Christopher Downes
7233 S. Jentanna de las Piedras Tucson, AZ, 85756
520-445-8416

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Sincerely,

Name: *Edith Steinman*

Title:

Address: *7832 Rockford Rd. Boynton Beach, FL 33472*

Telephone Number: *561-536-4170*

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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.

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 Barbara Machutt

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 1045 W. Carpenter #211

Telephone Number 651-487-2638

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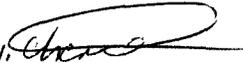
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Sincerely,


Name: Cheryl Falconer

Title:

Address: 2950 NW 44 Ave Lauderdale Lake FL 33313

Telephone Number: 404 - 281 - 8465 UP

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November 19, 2012

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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. It will also likely have a sobering effect on students and employees willing to learn ASL.

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Sincerely,

Name FRIBLYN HOOWEY

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 1732 W. BROOK HAVEN CIRCLE E. UNIT FT. COLLINS, CO 80525

Telephone Number 970-797-2450

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Sincerely,

Name Scott Atkinson

Title, if appropriate Dr. Richard Neile

Address 5260 County Rd 25 Cardington, Oh ~~43081~~ 43315

Telephone Number (567) 231-4321

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Sincerely,

Alvin Bowling

Name *Penny Bowling*

Title, if appropriate *Robert Gnade MD*

Address *52100 County Rd 25*

Telephone Number *(567) 231-4322*

OR
866-683-8918

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