

DEC - 6 2012

PETER J. VISCIOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN  
U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

2750 RA YKHAM BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515 1401  
202 225-2451  
7896 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
219 796 1944  
Call Toll Free  
1 888 423 PFT6  
1 888 423 7333  
INTERNET  
<http://www.house.gov/visciosky/>

November 20, 2012

*CGB*  
*TR*  
*1473*

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments you receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 17 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

## E-Mail Viewer

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

HTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>  
 Date: 11/15/2012 10:35:08 PM  
 To: "IN01HMA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and rely on VRS for emergency 911 service

Ms. elba garza

208 Hanover St

Hammond, IN 46327 1559

mexpr91@yahoo.com

I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and rely on VRS for emergency 911 service

Representative Visclosky, The FCC recently issued a request for comments (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." As a deaf constituent living in your district, I am writing to express my concern 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 the service quality I currently depend on. How will these companies hire and keep skilled ASL interpreters on staff when the government is proposing dramatic cuts to their compensation? 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?"

Please keep me and my family safe by helping to stop these changes. elba garza

PHONE TYPE:

(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN  
U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

2266 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401  
(202) 226-7401  
7896 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
(219) 796-1844  
Call Toll Free  
1 888 423-PETE  
(1 888 423 7383)  
INTERNET:  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky/>

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

CGB  
TR  
1474

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments your receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

## E-Mail Viewer

FILED/ACCEPTED

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

DEC - 11 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

[HTML](#)

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>  
 Date: 11/16/2012 9:35:12 PM  
 To: "IN01IMA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Mrs. Gloria Ilant

945 Reese Ave

Whiting, IN 46394 1535

grilant@gmail.com

I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Representative Viselosky, As a deaf constituent living in your district, I am writing to make you aware of the FCC's Public Notice (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) 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 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 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. I hope that you will help prevent these changes from taking place. Gloria Ilant

PHONE TYPE:

(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN

U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

2250 HAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401  
202 225 2461

7800 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46541-0  
(219) 709-1844

Call Toll Free  
1 888 423 PETS  
1 888 423 7363

INTERNET  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky/>

November 20, 2012

*CAB*  
*TR*  
*1475*

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments your receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

## E-Mail Viewer

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 6 2012

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary[HTML](#)

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>  
Date: 11/19/2012 12:05:23 PM  
To: "IN011MA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>  
Cc:  
Subject: IMA Mail on I am hearing, but know how important VRS is for those who are deaf

Mr. David Leeth

1236 Dogwood Dr

Chesterton, IN 46304 2606

dleeth@yahoo.com

I am hearing, but know how important VRS is for those who are deaf

Representative Visclosky, As a constituent living in your district, I am writing in response to the FCC's request for comments (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) 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 will destroy a program that is vitally important to people who are deaf or 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 just like people who can hear. With VRS they can do the things we take for granted - make a doctor's appointment or call a child's school. 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 relies largely on highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and specially designed VRS equipment and technology. 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. Furthermore, the FCC suggests reducing service even more by mandating off-the-shelf equipment and software.

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. Please help protect the rights of deaf Americans by preventing these proposed changes. David Leeth

PHONE TYPE:  
(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN  
U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

225A NAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401  
202.225.2461  
7066 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
(219) 795-1844  
 toll free  
1 888 423 PETER  
1 888 423 7359  
INTERNET  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky>

November 20, 2012

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

*CGB*  
*TRS*  
*1476*

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments you receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

## E-Mail Viewer

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2012

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>  
 Date: 11/13/2012 5:35:30 PM  
 To: "IN01HMA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Ms. marcela austria

3646 173rd St

Hammond, IN 46323 0800

chela\_del@yahoo.com

I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Representative Visclosky, As a deaf constituent living in your district, I am writing to make you aware of the FCC's Public Notice (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) 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 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 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. I hope that you will help prevent these changes from taking place. marcela austria

PHONE TYPE:

(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN  
U. S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

2256 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401  
(202) 225-2461  
7895 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
(219) 795-1844  
Call Toll Free  
1 888 423 PETE  
(1 888 423 7383)  
INTERNET:  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky/>

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

CGB  
TR  
1477

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments your receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

## E-Mail Viewer

FILED/ACCEPTED

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary[HTML](#)

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>  
Date: 11/16/2012 2:35:24 PM  
To: "IN011MA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>  
Cc:  
Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS for business/my work

Mr. Michael Corso

27 N Hobart Rd

Hobart, IN 46342 3359

mirish7695@gmail.com

I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS for business/my work

Representative Visclosky, As a deaf constituent living in your district, I am writing to express my serious concern over the recent proposals the FCC has made regarding Video Relay Service (VRS). (See CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51.) VRS gives deaf Americans the same opportunity as hearing Americans to communicate over the "phone" with anyone, anywhere, at anytime. The changes the FCC are considering would reduce the quality of, and access to a service that is vital for people, like me, who are deaf.

In my work, I am required to use the phone to communicate with colleagues, clients and business associates. Without reliable, high-quality VRS I would not be able to perform my duties effectively. The specialized videophone equipment, designed specifically for the needs of the deaf, and provided by the VRS providers, is essential. Yet, one of the more troubling suggestions made by the FCC is that of forcing deaf individuals to use off-the-shelf products and government-mandated software. Using products designed for hearing purposes and trying to make them fit for VRS will create an inferior service, and will be a huge step backwards for deaf people!

Additionally, the FCC is once again trying to slash the rates paid the VRS providers. If funding continues to be cut, at best, service quality will suffer, and more than likely, many VRS companies will simply stop providing the service.

In my view, VRS today is a shining example of what Congress intended when it passed the Americans with Disabilities Act 22 years ago. I hope that you will help prevent these changes from taking place. Michael Corso

PHONE TYPE:

(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN  
U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

2286 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515 1401  
(202) 225-2481

7895 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
(719) 796-1844

Call Toll Free  
1 888 423 PETE  
(1 888 423-7383)

INTERNET:  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky>

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Clara Gilmore Secretary

*CGB*  
*TR*  
*1478*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments you receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

FILED/ACCEPTED

## E-Mail Viewer

DEC - 6 2012

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>  
 Date: 11/13/2012 7:35:33 PM  
 To: "IN01IMA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Mrs. jacqueline tezak

2371 Deerpath Dr Apt 207

Schererville, IN 46375 2564

jtezak13@gmail.com

I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Representative Visclosky, As a deaf constituent living in your district, I am writing to make you aware of the FCC's Public Notice (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) 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 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 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. I hope that you will help prevent these changes from taking place. jacqueline tezak

PHONE TYPE:

(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
15TH DISTRICT INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEFENSE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN  
U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

2250 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20518 1401  
(202) 225-2481  
7895 BROADWAY, SUITE A  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410  
(219) 796 1843  
Call Toll Free  
1 888 423 PETER  
(1 888 423 7383)  
INTERNET  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky/>

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

*CGP  
TRS  
1479*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write on behalf of several residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

These constituents have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the FCC's recent efforts to reform the structure and practices of the Video Relay Service Program. Enclosed, please find copies of the correspondence I have received from them. I would appreciate your addressing their concerns and making their correspondence part of the official comments your receive on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:en  
Enclosures

## E-Mail Viewer

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

FILED/ACCEPTED

HTML

From: "Web Forms" &lt;webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov&gt;

Date: 11/13/2012 6:05:46 PM

To: "IN011MA" &lt;IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov&gt;

Cc:

Subject: IMA Mail on I am hearing, but know how important VRS is for those who are deaf

DEC - 8 2012  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of the Secretary

Mrs. Susan Bottorff

1945 Hamilton St

Portage, IN 46368 1705

suzie-qzy@juno.com

I am hearing, but know how important VRS is for those who are deaf

Representative Visclosky, As a constituent living in your district, I am writing in response to the FCC's request for comments (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) 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 will destroy a program that is vitally important to people who are deaf or 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 just like people who can hear. With VRS they can do the things we take for granted - make a doctor's appointment or call a child's school. 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 relies largely on highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and specially designed VRS equipment and technology. 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. Furthermore, the FCC suggests reducing service even more by mandating off-the-shelf equipment and software.

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. Please help protect the rights of deaf Americans by preventing these proposed changes. Susan Bottorff

PHONE TYPE:

(Voice is normal phone, VP is VideoPhone, TTD is Text-Telephone Device)

[ Close ]