

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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

November 15, 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

CC15
TR5
1461

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
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DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
 Date: 11/13/2012 10:05:38 AM
 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. Doris Phillips

535 Logan Dr Apt 709

Hammond, IN 46320 1229

sweet-smiley1984@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. Doris Phillips

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1401**

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INTERNET:
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November 15, 2012

CAB
TRB
1462

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

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 9 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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

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DEC - 8 2012

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary[HTML](#)

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
Date: 11/12/2012 2:35:07 PM
To: "IN01HMA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>
Cc:
Subject: IMA Mail on I am hearing, but know how important VRS is for those who are deaf

Ms. Ashley Reeves

PO Box 1078

Cedar Lake, IN 46303 1078

a_reeves7@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. Ashley Reeves

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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INTERNET:
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November 15, 2012

TJS
CMB
1463

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

FILED/ACCEPTED

REC - 8 2012

Federal Communications Commission
605 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20541

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

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DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
 Date: 11/11/2012 8:05:09 PM
 To: "IN01HMA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am a sign language interpreter that supports the VRS service.

Mr. Rick Smith

765 Baltimore Rd

Valparaiso, IN 46385 8617

rickster1020@gmail.com

I am a sign language interpreter that supports the VRS service.

Representative Visclosky, CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am a video interpreter who uses sign language to relay VRS calls between deaf and hearing people. I am also a constituent living in your district. Because of my day-to-day work with the deaf community, I understand first-hand how critical VRS communication is to deaf people and all of the hearing people with whom they communicate.

The FCC is proposing some changes to the VRS program and compensation rates. (See Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51.) I am afraid these proposals would negatively impact the quality of service, interpreting, and videophone equipment. The changes will also result in reduced access of VRS services for the deaf. I strongly oppose the FCC's proposals!

VRS empowers deaf people to communicate on an equal basis with hearing people. Because of VRS, deaf people now have the opportunity to place VRS calls and communicate the same way we hearing people have been communicating for years. Deaf people use VRS to compete (communicate) in the workplace, stay in touch with family and friends, order take-out food, contact their doctor, access emergency services and communicate in all the same ways hearing people do with their phone.

If the FCC proposals go into effect, deaf people will not have choices in their equipment and will no longer have access to the quality VRS equipment we now use. I am also afraid that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, it will degrade the quality of service I provide, thereby affecting the level of functional equivalence deaf people experience and have come to rely on daily. If the FCC wants to provide functional equivalency - and wants us interpreters in the middle to assist, these are not the types of changes to make. Doing so would be taking a huge step backwards. Please help keep

VRS innovative and progressive by opposing the FCC's proposals. Rick Smith

PHONE TYPE:

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

[Close]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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November 15, 2012

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

FILED/ACCEPTED

NOV - 8 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

CAG
TR
1464

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

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DEC - 6 2012

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 Federal Communications Commission
 (Office of the Secretary)
HTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
 Date: 11/10/2012 10:35:10 AM
 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. Brenda Suarez

6822 Parrish Ave

Hammond, IN 46323 1743

angelprican71@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."

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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.

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PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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INTERNET:
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November 15, 2012

CAB
TPS
1465

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

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Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

PJV:en
Enclosures

E-Mail Viewer

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DEC - 6 2012

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary[HTML](#)

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
 Date: 11/9/2012 5:35:05 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. Lavona Suiter

243 Marcliff Dr Apt 8

Valparaiso, IN 46385 8669

lmsuiter@comcast.net

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."

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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. I hope that you will help prevent these changes from taking place. Lavona Suiter

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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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 Clerk

*C.G.D.
TRS
1460*

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

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Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>
 Date: 11/18/2012 12:05:43 AM
 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. jasmon carpenter

535 Logan Dr

Hammond, IN 46320 1280

jazz.carpenter83@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. jasmon carpenter

PHONE TYPE:

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

[Close]

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

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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

*CCB
TR
1469*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

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

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Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

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Enclosures

E-Mail Viewer

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DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>

Date: 11/19/2012 6:35:24 PM

To: "IN011MA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>

Cc:

Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Mr. Timothy Marshall

1218 Oklahoma St

Gary, IN 46403 3677

timarshall09@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."

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PHONE TYPE:

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

[Close]

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1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

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November 20, 2012

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DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

CGB
TRS
1470

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

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

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Member of Congress

PJV:en
Enclosures

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HTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
Date: 11/14/2012 10:35:55 AM
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

Mrs. Tiffany Ahrendt

9055 Pheasant Trace West Dr

Demotte, IN 46310 9104

StormyWolf99@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."

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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. Tiffany Ahrendt

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
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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

CPB
TRP
147

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

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DEC - 6 2012

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

[HTML](#)

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www2.house.gov>
 Date: 11/14/2012 6:05:52 PM
 To: "IN011MA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am a deaf constituent. I want functionally-equivalent VRS communication.

Mr. gregory marchuk

4619 E 104th Ave

Crown Point, IN 46307 7407

gmarchuk@aol.com

I am a deaf constituent. I want functionally-equivalent VRS communication.

Representative Visclosky, 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.

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is considering making changes to the VRS program that would reduce the quality of, and access to, a service that is crucial for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. I hope that you will oppose these changes. I have submitted comments to the FCC and wanted to share them with you.

I am very concerned about the recent proposals to change the way VRS works..

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) assured deaf people access to "functionally-equivalent" communication -choices and services similar to those enjoyed by hearing 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 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. gregory marchuk

PHONE TYPE:

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PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT INDIANA

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
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DEC - 6 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

CAB
TRS
1472

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Member of Congress

PJV:en
Enclosures

E-Mail Viewer

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DEC - 11 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryHTML

From: "Web Forms" <webforms@hhws-www1.house.gov>
 Date: 11/14/2012 9:05:23 AM
 To: "IN011MA" <IN01WYR@housemail.house.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: IMA Mail on I am deaf or hard-of-hearing and use VRS to contact family and friends

Mr. Donald Demro

613 Orchard Ave Apt 92

Hebron, IN 46341 9359

donlow58@yahoo.com

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