

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

Received & Inspected

DEC 10 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 Megan Leners

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 101 Windsor Court, New Brighton, MN 55112

Telephone Number 651-636-6040

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Sincerely,

Name Lynn Call

Title, if appropriate Brother of 2 deaf Brothers

Address 13072 Flint Drive Santa Ana CA
92705

Telephone Number 714 639-3409

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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:

Title:

Address:

Telephone Number:

merritt + Sue Snyder
Mr. + Mrs.
175 Randolph St, Buckhannon W.V 26201-23.
videophone 304 460 0675 or
Fax 304 472 7039

By signing this document, you are filing an official FCC proceeding. All information submitted, including names and addresses, will be publicly available via the web.

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Sincerely,

Name:

Title:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Greg & Lois White
Mr & Mrs.
Rt 9 Box 342 Field Stone Dr. Buckhannon, W.V.
304-472-9579 *26201-85*

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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 Marlene White

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 530 S. Wright St
Blanchester, Ohio 45107
Telephone Number 937-783-7601

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Sincerely,

Name Larry R. White

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 530 S. Wright St Blanchest, Ohio 45107

Telephone Number (937) 783-0828

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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,

11/30/2012

Name

Bela L. Timar

BELA TIMAR (DEAF) HUSBAND

Title, if appropriate

Address

5122 JOSEPH STREET MAPLE HTS, OHIO 44137

Telephone Number

216-220-5834

FAMILY DEAF

WIFE: PATRICIA TIMAR

Patricia Timar

SON: BRUCE STEWART

Bruce Stewart

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November 19, 2012

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I am not deaf, but I know firsthand how VRS works. VRS allows deaf or hard-of-hearing people 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, especially those who are not comfortable with the written word. 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. It will also likely have a sobering effect on students and employees willing to learn ASL.

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 the VRS providers. These have been specifically designed to take into account the special needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

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Sincerely,

Name Matt Dahl

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 1133 Chatsworth, St. Paul, MN 55103

Telephone Number 612-807-6419

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Sincerely,

Name Karen K. Ruggieri

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 43928 Appaloosa Dr

Telephone Number (661) 722-0553

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Sincerely,

Name Annah Ruggiero

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 43928 Appaloosa Dr Lancaster CA, 93536

Telephone Number 661-722-0553

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Sincerely,

Name JOSEPH RUGGIERO

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 43928 APPALOOSA DR. LANCASTER, CA. 93536

Telephone Number 661-722-0553

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Sincerely,

Name Anna Delrosario

Title, if appropriate Sign Language Interpreter

Address 45661 Caledonia Ct. Lancaster CA, 93534

Telephone Number _____

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Sincerely,

Name Joel Call (Hearing)
Title, if appropriate father of 2 deaf sons, 2 deaf grandchildren
Address 37199 Falls Grove Ave Murrieta CA 92563
Telephone Number 951 600-5776

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Sincerely,

Name CAROL CALL (Hearing)
Title, if appropriate Mother of 2 deaf sons 2 deaf grand children
Address 37199 Falls Grove Ave Murrieta, CA 92563
Telephone Number 951 600 5776

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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: *LARRY MOKERO*

Title:

Address: *650 W WILST TUCSON, AZ 85713*

Telephone Number:

By signing this document, you are filing an official FCC proceeding. All information submitted, including names and addresses, will be publicly available via the web.

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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

Received & Inspected

DEC 10 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.

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Sincerely,

Name:

Edward J Sanchez

Title:

203 W Sahara St #3 Tucson AZ 85705

Address:

Telephone Number: 520-305-4310

By signing this document, you are filing an official FCC proceeding. All information submitted, including names and addresses, will be publicly available via the web.

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FCC Mail Room

November 19, 2012

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 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 deaf or hard-of-hearing people 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, especially those who are not comfortable with the written word. 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. It will also likely have a sobering effect on students and employees willing to learn ASL.

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 the 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 *Pamela J. Willis*

Title, if appropriate _____

Address *241 Timberway Drive*

Telephone Number *615-507-9550*

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

Received & Inspected
DEC 10 2012
FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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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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Sincerely,

Name GARY NIELD

Title, if appropriate _____

Address 39512 VIA DOMINIQUE MURRIETA CA
92563

Telephone Number 951 240 3752

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Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 10 2012

FCC Mail Room

C 6 Docket NOS. 03-123 and 10-51
December 4, 2012

To Whom IT may CONCERNED:

Please save my VRSIC (Video Relay Service Interpreter)
Do you want to know WHY! Because I'm fed up with
untrained interpreter through TTY - Minnesota Relay
Service (711) for years. Until Video Relay Service VRS
(Sorenson's ZV 20 interpreter service) invented it.
Most of Deaf people, including me feel in love ~~with~~
VRS ^{about} 7 or 8 years ago.

I'm sick of tired being put us (Deaf people) back in
dark in history of ^{history of} ~~off~~ and on - off and on - intermittent
put us behind in our communication by using phone or
TTY (Teletype communication device) that cause our
communication with signing skill being delay.

I'm sick of tired of hearing people (it doesn't matter
with races or white people, speak of hearing) think
they understand, I'll tell you what! It is not
true, it is all up to ^{the} head not by experiencing
work with Deaf people.

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Listen Hearing people with unexperienced, ^(Committee) it may take ^{working with the deaf} time to learn sign language in our communication, but remember the language of our communication is not the ~~same~~ ^{same one.} signing skills. The signing with our own syntax, grammar, verbal, adjective and noun communication is totally different than hearing's english and ~~there~~ their ways of ^{speaking} signing. Also, American Sign Language is various ^(Committee) Listen Hearing people, it is very dangerous to ~~make~~ make an assumption by using website that doesn't help at all.

We, Deaf Communities, really do need video relay service to voice and signing (verses communication). I'm proud of VRSI work so hard to learn signing skills - to develop different signing i.e. the verb=running nose vs nose running, ^{And running,} cart runs away is totally different communication than hearing's communication. They (Interpreters) work so hard often willing to be involved Deaf Events, Church, Sports & Clubs to learn various signing: To learn ~~to get~~ along with Deaf people.

My suggestion is to keep Video Relay Service Interpreter, not using web site nor software. Even do not close our Video Relay Service Programs. Just leave it alone.

Do not reduce of hour of earnings is that interpreters work so hard, they deserve to be paid more wage.

Do not remove VRSI, we cannot depend on our hearing children (adults) because its work them out and they have on own life - we do not depend on hearing all the time, we Deaf people prefer to be independent, can do anything we want.

That's why we, Deaf people, love Video Relay Service. We do DO not Not hear HEAR mobile phone nor web site either software.

Do Not cut VRS budget, give them increase of course, Deaf Communities \$550 small population. Look at metro area, Twin Cities, Minnesota, more than 500,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing people using VRS.

Think about it - need take time to learn signing words to develop various in our communication and be willing modify different level of communication. That is why we prefer to keep VRSI -

My suggestion is leave VRS alone and increase the cost to be provided,

Remember a few (very few) of United States makes real good pay and mostly are unemployed cannot afford to buy update computers, web site, software on on on on!

It is written in American Sign Language and Pidgin. If can't understand what ~~words~~

So then need an ~~expert~~^{expert} certificate ~~and~~ American
Sign language interpreter to read it, voice it
for you. Do not assume of your understanding in
written.

Thank You for being patrence with my
hand written which is finger damage that
guess writing so hard.

Thank You Again. Remember leave it alone!

Beverly K Hull

612-282-0369 VP

mcmasterbev35@gmail.com