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Public Comments on Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility:=====

Title: Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility

FR Document Number: 2011-31160

Legacy Document ID:

RIN:

Publish Date: 12/30/2011 12:00:00 AM

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Comment:

To Whom it May Concern:

As a current law student and former accessible technology specialist, I read with interest your proposed rulemaking statement regarding sections 716, 717, and 718 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. In particular, I feel the need to comment on the idea that a permanent small entity exemption from the requirements of these sections be self-executing. Such an exemption?if deemed necessary?should only be granted to those businesses that have applied to the FCC for relief from the Act?s requirements. My views on this subject are driven by two interrelated concerns: notification and awareness.

## Notification

Until this fall, I worked in the accessible technology office of a major university. My office was responsible for providing technology-driven solutions to integrate students with a wide range of disabilities (including visual, cognitive, and mobility) into the university. My student-clients often approached me with questions about new software and hardware, including video communications technologies. They were excited about the expressed potential of various tools or reports they had received from their professors or classmates, but wanted to know whether—and to what extent—the technology was adaptable to their needs. Occasionally my office was able to procure the tool and test it; more often I would resort to research on fora where others in the community were trying to answer the same question. Answers I gave were sometimes frustratingly qualified by my lack of concrete information. Students purchased new tools somewhat at their peril.

Unfortunately, there were also times when students would come to me a week or so into the semester frustrated with a particular tool one of their professors had excitedly chosen to employ in his classroom. One dimension or another would be difficult or impossible for the student to access. After long exchanges with the professor concerned and the manufactur

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