

Secretary Dortch,

Marlene H. Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket Nos. 13-24 and 03-123

I am writing to express my concern about a recent change to captioned telephone service that requires my phone to always be in the "captions off" mode. As someone who depends on captioning in order to communicate with others over the telephone, this is extremely inconvenient.

I have significant hearing impairment and hearing over the telephone is particularly difficult for me. Captioned telephone service makes an enormous difference in my life. With captioning, I can stay in touch with my family and friends and easily conduct business over the phone. I know that in an emergency I will be able to get the help I need. There is no one else in my home who uses my captioning telephone, so forcing me to keep the captioning in the "off" setting is unwarranted. I now must take extra steps that confuse the beginning of the conversation for both me and my caller. People with normal hearing, of course, can just begin speaking and listening. Why not have captioning on always so we can pick up the handset and begin just like the normals"

I hope that the FCC will reconsider this change based on the needs of people like me. Paulette F. Rayel