

To Whom It May Concern:

As a consumer who is blind and has a mild to moderate hearing loss, I am outraged at the Consumer Electronics Association's (CEA) latest attempt to gut the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) with regard to access to TV and TV like devices. The CVAA gave us the promise of accessibility off the shelf and we expect nothing less.

It is possible for this to happen now. Apple has shown this to be the case with its Mac computers and I-devices and Google is entering this field with their android system for mobile devices.

The Apple I-phone is an easy device to use once you learn the gestures necessary for its operation. There is no need for a PhD in computer science just to run the device. If the CEA gets its way on TV and TV like device accessibility, you might need that PhD in computer science to operate the device if you can get an accessible device at all. That's not what this law intended and this effort must not be allowed to stand.

In the UK, access is the norm rather than the exception while here industry must be compelled to do the right thing through regulation and legal action. Why can't they just make their products accessible out of the box, something that would be cheaper for them in the long run? I as a consumer will not stand for having to beg for access when it is required right now. I want to have the same amount of choice in what I buy that everyone else has. I don't want to deal with outdated technology. I've been there and have done that in the cell phone arena until recently and I won't do it again.

I also don't want to be required to be a technology guru to operate the equipment. I am not a technology expert and am considered by many to be an intermediate tech user. Right now I don't know how to find the SAP on either of our TV sets and don't even know how to do it through our Zenith VCR which does, by the way, talk. The steps to operate the device and use its accessibility features should be simple enough so that anyone, no matter their level of expertise and comfort with technology, can operate it with ease.

The cable and satellite standard is not acceptable here as it reduces us to begging for technology and hoping we can get something, even if it's inferior; and as I said earlier, I've been there in the cell phone arena until recently and I'm not going back.

The CEA needs to understand, and the FCC needs to tell them, that the intent of Congress was for full access with an array of choices for the consumer. Nothing less is acceptable in the TV and TV like arena.

Thank you very much in advance for your time, attention and action to tell the CEA that they must comply and do so now without any more stalling tactics. I as a consumer am counting on no less from you.

Sincerely;

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