

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jay Bader, a member of the American Council of the Blind residing in Orlando, Florida. I feel very strongly that all persons with disabilities, including those who are blind and visually impaired, should be able to access all aspects of television. In the case of a television, the onscreen menus of the TV should be accessible, as well as the appropriate cable or satellite set-top boxes, which currently have onscreen menus and program guide that are not accessible. It is also my feeling that begging for an accessible TV or similar equipment directly from a manufacturer is categorically unacceptable.

With the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, or CVAA, it was the obvious intention of Congress, and it is the expectation of people who are blind or visually impaired across America, that accessible TVs and TV-like equipment will be readily and regularly available at commercial retail stores. The so-called "upon request" compromise that was reached with the cable and satellite industries neither involved the consumer electronics lobby at the time nor applies to their client companies now. People with vision loss will not stand for the consumer electronics lobby's proposed gutting of one of the most popular and important parts of the CVAA.

I personally know many people who are blind and visually impaired who want to be able to use their televisions and set top boxes just like I, as a sighted person, do. It is extremely disappointing that currently, trying to simply adjust the volume or channels on this equipment cannot be done sufficiently without sight. Showing a movie, to find and activate the TV's video description controls, and to otherwise make full use of any TV or TV-like equipment without vision is near impossible.

I urge you to implement the CVAA to its fullest extent. That means a blind or visually impaired person deserves to have an accessible television, set top box and all aspects of the television experience be completely accessible. I truly appreciate your consideration and look forward to accessible television in every way in the United States of America.