

Dear Members of the Federal Communications Commission,

My name is Brian J. Coppola, a 48-year-old legally blind and hard of hearing man, and had been that way since birth, due to my mother contracting the German Measles during her pregnancy with me.

I am writing to let you know that the Consumer Electronics industry, such as those who make television sets, set top cable boxes, DVD players, and radios should be required to make mainstream products that are readily accessible to the blind, the visually impaired and the deaf/blind community so that they may enjoy all facets of the American life, such as emergency information, entertainment, and even music by having easy and independent access to the equipment on a level equal and comparable to that of other non-visual and non-visual and hearing handicapped consumers who purchase these types of electronic products on a day to day basis.

As you know, the law already dictates that they must do so when coming out with newer models of their products, as the law deems such new manufacturers' products, as readily achievable when the products are newly built from the ground up. While they may be of the private sector, and may try to argue that the FCC's rule making process on forcing them to make things accessible for the disabled is "unconstitutional," exceptions to this must be made, as it would put those with disabilities into an inferior category by forcing them to have to go through the manufacturer of consumer electronics themselves to request specific reasonable accommodations to make their products accessible to that of a person who is visually or hearing disabled or have both.

What is more astounding is that these companies are already trying to scuttling around the laws on the books by taking a "survey says," approach to accessibility instead of just automatically doing it. "Survey Says" **Family Feud, 1975, Richard Dawson and ABC Television, 1975.** When our congress and the president adopted and signed into law the 21'st Century Video and Communications Act of 2010, this was intended to be a contract between our government and the blind and deaf/blind community, to restore the rights that were taken away by the Supreme Court to require major television networks to provide audio description of movies and other television activity. The Supreme Court as you may or may not recall, stripped the power of the FCC to do so based on the constitutional technicality that congress did not give the power to the FCC to do so. Now that congress has given you guys the power to do so, under the Edward J. Markey Bill signed into law by president Obama in 2010, our friends, the Consumer Electronics Industry and manufacturers of these products that we use, such as televisions, radios and even the newer E-readers that have the technology to provide CSA's should not be allowed to scuttling or skirt the law again. Far short of a cure for our disabilities, exceptions need to be made to allow us equal access to consumer electronic products that provide communication to the rest of the American public, the same holds true for the blind and deaf/blind community, as we are part of the American public.

Thus, instead of having us go to the manufacturers and request specific designs of the electronic products, and then, yet, have them throw the suggestion into a suggestion box, already skirts the law. Thus, to allow these lobbyist more leeway would be an injustice and a carnage to that of the blind and deaf/blind community.

Thus, in closing, to have accessible mainstream televisions, radios, DVD players and other accessible forms of communications put into accessible format and then placed into the mainstream would further enhance the quality of life for those with visual and hearing difficulties and would also greatly enhance our abilities to be independent in a safe and effective manner. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 978 702-9403. To have the laws on the books enforced would be justice delivered and not justice denied, however, talking to manufacturers about accessibility issues and making suggestions to them and then have them just thrown into a suggestion box is justice denied and thus, violates the spirit of the ADA, as it was intended to be our law.

Sincerely Yours,

Brian J. Coppola

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