

To Whom It May Concern:

Having to beg for an accessible TV or similar equipment directly from a manufacturer is categorically unacceptable, considering all the available technologies which are commercially available to build in accessibility and are cost effective as well. I am saddened by the lack of accessible video equipment in my household, which consist of 3 flat screens, 3 dvd/vcr combos, a blue-ray player, 2 cable boxes and 2 cable dvr's. If I wish to watch any video oriented programs, or movies, I must ask my neighbor or children to switch to the audio 2 channel, because the menus on my equipment is not accessible to me.

The average visual consumer, formally myself included, would wonder why a visually challenged individual would spend good money on equipment that they cannot use. Well, in my case, I was not always blind, and now that I am, although promised, there is basically no commercial equipment available to allow me to read the menu on any of my flat screen tv's, dvd players, dvr's vcr's or cable boxes. Sighted individuals have almost an unlimited amount of choices with tele communications and video equipment, why can't I.

I doubt if Congress had our present level of compliance in mind when they drafted legislation to ensure that visually impaired individuals had a variety of commercially available products to choose from.

I have the ability to call around the world, read shelf product information in stores, send e-mails , pay bills online, use my computer or tablet to go online and attend school, CHECK THE COLOR OF MY CLOTHING, OR TRAVEL USING GPS, JUST TO NAME A FEW THINGS TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS ME TO ACCOMPLISH. However, without help, I cannot watch a television program or movie, simply because I CAN'T ACCESS THE PROPER MENU SELECTION ON MY TV, CABLE BOX, DVR OR DVD/VCR EQUIPMENT, THERE IS SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE. AS A CONSUMER, AREN'T I ENTITLED to equal treatment, I had choices when I had vision, why not now. Rather than weakening the law, strengthen it, you may be glad one day when it's you, needing choices.

Sincerely:

mrmwwheeler@comcast.net

Michael W. Wheeler
7450 N. Rogers Ave.
Apt. 1013
Chicago, il 60626