

To Whom It May Concern:

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he CVAA says that my cable or satellite provider needs to make the equipment, the set top boxes and other such devices they give me to get their programming, accessible to me, as a blind person, upon my request. This is a good thing in comparison to how things have been. But, it is a compromise reached with cable and similar providers as a condition for their willingness to allow the CVAA to become law. So, with regard to cable and satellite providers, they don't necessarily need to make all, or even most, of their equipment accessible as a matter of course; they merely have to accommodate my request for equipment I can use by providing me with something, even if it is not state-of-the-art.

In contrast, the CVAA requires that TVs and TV-like equipment, essentially anything that receives or plays back video programming of any kind, a ton of very cool technology out there, must be accessible by default; TVs and TV-like equipment will only be allowed to be inaccessible in a given instance if, and only if, fairly strict legal exceptions apply. This means that, unlike the cable and satellite sector which may regularly traffic in inaccessible equipment so long as they can ultimately give me something I can use upon my request, makers of TVs and TV-like equipment are charged with the clear responsibility to fundamentally change their behavior in a way that would exponentially increase the commercial retail availability of the accessible and most popular video-related consumer electronics on the market. the consumer electronics lobby is assuring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of industry's commitment to the needs of people with disabilities.

Rather than being able to shop for the digital TV or other video player I want and have a robust array of choices just like everyone else, I will have to beg for an accessible product directly from the manufacturer.

Suppose you walk into a store to buy a TV. The clerk tells you that you are only allowed to buy certain models of a particular brand because your eyes are blue, or because you are over six feet tall or because your skin is black. What would you think? Would you be outraged? Would you stand for it?

Suppose you were limited to only certain models of an automobile because you are female . Is that legal?

So, is it legal for me as a blind person to be limited when it comes to models of TVs and other communications equipment? Must I "settle" for only certain features, certain priced models? If I am blind, I very well may have to settle unless you, as my representative, step in and stop the Tech Lobby.

I ask you, my sighted representative to put a stop to such behavior on the part of the communications industry. Please protect your blind constituents.

I vote. I spend money. I want the same choices my sighted family and friends have when it comes to products. Anything less is rank discrimination. Anything else limits my purchasing power. Please stop the communications industry limiting what I can buy with my own money.

Sincerely,

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