

I work for CaptionCall, a company that provides telephone captioning for the hearing impaired. My concern regards three new FCC proposed regulations being circulated regarding Captioned Telephone Service that are not in the best interest of people with hearing loss:

• First, the FCC would like to prevent anyone from receiving a captioning telephone for free. Instead, everyone would be required to pay a minimum of \$75 to receive a captioning telephone and participate in this service. IP CTS customers are already required to pay for long distance telephone service and broadband Internet access in order to use the captioning service, as well as for any non-captioning phones they already have. The \$75 fee seems like an additional tax on the elderly and hearing impaired, especially because you cannot use captioning without a special phone. It will definitely be a barrier for many who need it to participate in this valuable service.

• The FCC would also require any CaptionCall customers who have already received a CaptionCall phone at no cost to provide certification of hearing loss from a hearing care professional or other medical professional in order to continue using it. This will confuse, frustrate, and alienate many seniors who are enjoying captioned telephone service today.

• Lastly, the FCC is still pushing to require captions be set to the "OFF" position at the beginning of each call, even when a hard-of-hearing consumer lives alone or only with other hard-of-hearing people. As proposed, the only way for CaptionCall to set the default on a customer's phone to captioning "ON" is for the user to provide a doctor's certification that they are either mentally or physically unable to do this.

Respectfully, Robert LaHue