

My name is Jeff Mihelich.

I'm a blind person living in Minneapolis MN. I use DIRECTV as my TV provider. I do enjoy described TV, when I can find it. Problem 1 of many is that in TV guides, no simple or word indicates if the TV show has description. This would be helpful for people who read the guide to me or , maybe very soon, when the program guide will be able to have speech output as an option so i can choose my own programs independently.

Problem 2. Sometimes it seems like DIRECTV doesn't pass the description through to my TV. I choose the SAP setting, with the help of someone that has vision, and I get no sound at all. To me, this indicates that there is a SAP stream but DIRECTV is not passing it on to me, is this correct?

My friends who have vision disabilities in the UK, have set top boxes that all have the option to turn on speech so they can independently choose a program, hear the information about it, and choose it to watch now or to record it. They do all of this with speech from the set top box. Why don't we have this here in America, the richest most powerful country in the world? Maybe it is because the corporations have much more power than the government, they don't want to be told to make the needed changes to equipment so they put pressure on FCC not to implement those guidelines. We do have the 21<sup>st</sup> century telecommunications act but it is not being enforced.

I really expect some forward movement on this soon. All I as a blind citizen can do is write letters. Does my letter have any power at all compared to corporations who don't want to make their equipment assessable to all people because it will cost them some funds?

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