

I strongly support all the recommendations that the RID proposed in its statement dated August 19, 2013, most especially the one beginning on page 11 that recommends to "REVISE RULES TO ENABLE SIGN/ASL COMPETENT HEARING INDIVIDUALS TO PURCHASE ACCESS TO TEN -DIGIT NUMBERS TO MAKE POINT - TO – POINT CALLS. Hearing members of my immediate family, my relatives, and my friends are SIGN/ASL COMPETENT. It is a violation of my functional equivalence rights to have to communicate with my SIGN/ASL COMPETENT family members, relatives, and friends via the relay service. Just as foreign speaking people are able to communicate point to point with their bi-lingual English-foreign language individuals, I should have the same right to have point-to-point communication with SIGN/ASL COMPETENT individuals. Not allowing such SIGN/ASL COMPETENT English speaking people access to TEN -DIGIT NUMBERS TO MAKE POINT - TO – POINT CALLS is in violation of FCC's own functional equivalence regulations and contradicts the FCC regulation in limiting Videophones with 10 digit numbers as part of the Neustar data base only to deaf people. It is ridiculous to expect me to use an interpreter to have a phone conversation with any of the SIGN/ASL COMPETENT hearing people. Furthermore, it doesn't cost the phone company and their customers and the government to provide this service to SIGN/ASL COMPETENT hearing people. In fact, it saves telephone customers money as the cost of providing relay services borne by the telephone companies is passed on to their customers. The only losers of allowing SIGN/ASL COMPETENT hearing people to have 10 digit numbers are the relay service providers. The amount of money lost to such VRS providers are so small that, as far as I know, only one VRS provider is opposed to allowing SIGN/ASL COMPETENT hearing people to have 10 digit numbers.

I'm tired of commenting and would like action to be taken and effective immediately and retroactive to the date of the establishment of the VRS.