

Secretary Dortch,

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

CG Docket Nos. 13-24 and 03-123

I am writing to express my concern about changes the FCC plans to make to captioned telephone service.

I have significant hearing impairment and hearing over the telephone is very difficult for me. I am grateful to have access to telephone captioning services. I don't understand why the government now seems to be trying to make it so hard for me to access this service. Is your hope that I just give up and stop using it" As someone who depends on captioning in order to communicate with others over the telephone every day, this is extremely distressing to me.

Why, when I already have significant hearing impairment, must I also prove a mental or physical impairment in order to have the captioning function on my phone in the default "ON" position"

Further, why should legitimate users of captioning telephone service be required to pay a minimum of \$75 for a captioned telephone" I already pay for standard local and long distance telephone service and broadband Internet access in order to use the captioning service. The \$75 fee seems a lot like a tax on the elderly and hearing impaired.

I hope that the FCC will reconsider these changes as well as provide answers to my questions. Joyce Steavenson