

JOHN A. YARMUTH
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
3RD DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
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SENIOR WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1703

May 28, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is in the process of considering rates for Video Relay Service (VRS), I am writing to emphasize the importance of this service to the deaf community.

Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the FCC to ensure that interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services are available, to the extent possible and in the most efficient manner, to hearing impaired and speech impaired individuals. VRS allows people who are deaf and hard of hearing to connect instantly to the world and communicate in their own language, providing what most of the deaf community considers the most functionally equivalent form of relay service currently available.

That is why I urge the Commission to adopt a VRS rate that is fair, predictable, and accounts for the actual costs of providing the service – including the cost of customer equipment and installation and future innovation. In addition, the Commission should continue its careful management and oversight to preserve the VRS program to ensure ASL users have access to adequate and efficient communication services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Yarmuth".

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress