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SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

June 7, 2010

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

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ADA
10/10

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to ask the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to consider carefully the compensation rates for the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund. The Video Relay Service (VRS) program has a significant impact on Americans living with hearing disabilities. VRS provides deaf Americans communications options by allowing them to connect with hearing individuals in real-time through a professional American Sign Language interpreter via a videophone and a high-speed internet connection.

The FCC is currently considering the rate change submitted by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA). I ask the FCC to carefully weigh these public comments, the importance of the VRS program, and the need to effectively pair compensation to costs associated with providing this service.

I also ask the FCC to work to improve the oversight, and management of the VRS program to ensure the effective use of this fund. I am concerned about the allegations of fraudulent claims being made to the TRS fund last year. Eliminating fraud and abuse of the reimbursement fund should be a priority for the FCC.

I hope that the FCC will set a fair compensation rate that will keep VRS service available to deaf Americans.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



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