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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4402

May 21, 2010

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Handwritten notes:*  
CAB  
ADA  
PV  
JC  
8/3/10

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn and Baker,

I am writing regarding the Federal Communications Commission's proposed changes to the payment formula for Video Relay Service (VRS), the broadband service that enables deaf and hard of hearing individuals to make routine and emergency calls. The Americans with Disabilities Act directs the Commission to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing individuals nationwide have access to "functionally equivalent" telecommunications services available nationwide. For those individuals who use American Sign Language, VRS is the most functionally equivalent service available and the technology has often been described as life changing.

It is my understanding that in its proposed rate change, the Commission is shifting for the first time from a compensation method based on projected costs to rates based on the 2009 average actual historical cost data. Concerns have been raised that this shift in methodology does not accurately reflect the entire cost structure associated with providing VRS.

As you move forward with determining appropriate compensation rates for VRS providers, I respectfully request that you take into account all costs associated with providing this critical service and ensure that carriers are treated fairly. VRS is one of the successes of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and I hope you will continue to ensure progress in communications for the deaf and hard of hearing. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature: Jim Matheson*  
JIM MATHESON  
Member of Congress

28 MAY 2010 RCU

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