

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2010

Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Declaratory Ruling recently issued by the Commission concerning video relay services (DA 10-314) is a welcome commitment by the Commission to protect the integrity of the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund (TRS Fund).

We commend the renewed and vigorous oversight of relay services, but request that the Commission address the concerns of individuals dependent on these services, who include some of our constituents. Specifically, these concerns are as follows:

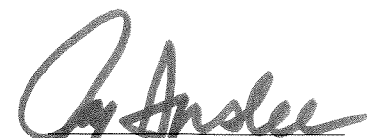
- The Commission's decision on how minutes generated by employees of relay providers are reimbursed through the Fund as business expenses could lead to unintended, but discriminatory, treatment of deaf, hard of hearing, speech disabled, and deaf-blind employees.
- The Commission's implementation of the above decision remains vague, particularly in how to differentiate between calls made for work purposes and calls made for personal purposes, both by employees making calls from their place of employment and employees making calls from a home-based office or remote location.
- The Commission's rules governing what types of relay calls are reimbursable need to be as clear and thorough as possible so providers are able to fully and proactively comply with the Commission's rules.

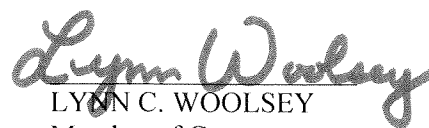
We urge the Commission to review DA 10-314 to ensure that the concerns raised by consumers of relay services are addressed, and that no harmful disruptions in relay service occur as a result of the Ruling's implementation.

We also urge the Commission to make such decisions in the future exclusively through a notice and comment process to enable a wide range of input to aid the Commission in developing thorough and sound policies that ensure the provision of stable and functionally equivalent telecommunications access for deaf, hard of hearing, speech disabled and deaf-blind people. Finally, we urge the Commission to take action to complete all outstanding rulemakings concerning telecommunications relay services, in order to ensure absolute clarity regarding the Commission's policy for the appropriate management of the TRS Fund.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Very Truly Yours,


JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress


LYNN C. WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

Mary Bono Mack

MARY BONO MACK
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress