

Converse Communications Corporation

February 8, 2010

Senator Toni Harp

Representative John Geragosian

The State Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI) was established in 1974, and has provided services to the residents of Connecticut. Among these services are interpreting, training, advocacy, and oversight.

In February of 1974, Converse Communications began providing 24 hour / 7 day per week Telephone Relay Service (TRS). This service provides a means for individuals who are hearing or speech impaired to communicate, live time, over the telephone lines with businesses and hearing individuals.

In 1990 the American with Disability Act was signed and mandated that every State must have TRS like Connecticut by July 1993. The FCC set forth standards for such service. It is the annual responsibility of CDHI to oversee and certify that the services in Connecticut meet the FCC standards.

We would speak in opposition to any proposal that would in anyway limit or curtail these or other services, which CDHI oversees or performs.

We hope that the Committee would diligently consider any changes and the impact it would have on the residents of Connecticut.

Thank you.

David A. Yoreo

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President