

To: Appropriation Committee – Connecticut
From: Arthur Moore
Date: February 11, 2010
Re: Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired – Relay Connecticut

With respect to Relay Connecticut, the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI) works closely with the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) in regulating the Relay Connecticut service.

The Relay Connecticut service is a state-wide telecommunications relay service for deaf, hard of hearing, speech disabled and hearing people, each state, including Connecticut is mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). CDHI has the role as a regulatory agency, ensuring that the Relay Connecticut service is in compliance with the FCC requirements as well as providing annual reports. In addition, CDHI plays a crucial role in getting Connecticut certified by the FCC in terms of quality relay service.

Sprint is the vendor that provides Relay Connecticut service, offering services utilizing teletype (TTY) machines, Captioned Telephones (CapTel) and videophones. In addition, Sprint offers Video Relay Service, Internet-based relay services, Relay Conferencing Captioning (RCC), Speech to Speech service and wireless telecommunications solutions for deaf, hard of hearing and speech disabled people. Those services were made possible by CDHI in collaboration with the DPUC and the FCC.

Overall, the state of Connecticut is hereby requested to keep CDHI as an active and independent state agency based on its expertise with the telecommunications needs with the deaf, hard of hearing and speech disabled people within the state. This is one of the many aspects of the CDHI spectrum, involving employment, interpreting services, CART services, counseling and many more.

Thank you,

Art

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Moore".