

Chairman Kevin Martin

-- "Given the huge positive impact VRS has had on the lives of so many Americans, I anticipate that its growth will only continue."

-- "...The Commission's work [is] to ensure that all Americans have full access to communications and emergency services."

Commissioner Deborah Tate

-- "I hope to do as much as possible to keep all Americans connected to vital information, whether in everyday life or in an emergency."

-- "...Requiring interoperability will help foster competition by encouraging new providers to offer this service."

Commissioner Michael Copps

-- "The Americans with Disabilities Act charges the Commission with doing everything we can to ensure that people with disabilities have access to functionally equivalent services."

-- "Functional equivalency...means an equal right to access the tools they need to contribute to our communities, participate in our economy and ensure that their talents and energies have a fighting chance to reach their full potential."

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

-- "...It is not surprising that VRS has been widely embraced by the deaf and hard of hearing community, particularly given that VRS more vividly conveys emotions than traditional relay services. It opens a world of new communications opportunities for many..."

-- "I'm glad that we take another step toward ensuring that every person who is deaf or hard of hearing will have access to a dial tone and the critical link to the rest of the world..."

-- "I look forward to working with my colleagues and with the hearing and speech impaired communities as we continue to work towards the ADA's enduring standard of accessibility and functional equivalency for all Americans."