



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

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GARY W. OLSEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 10, 1988

Dear Bob:

As promised, here is the written portion of the additional section(s) on Communication that would- strengthen the proposed legislation. As Lex stated, this area is too important to overlook.

Feel free to work with the wording. The ideas and concept are there for you to play with. Our staff attorney at the - NAD will be happy to assist.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance and, again congratulations on pulling all of this together!

SIGNATURE

Gary W. Olsen Executive
Director

Enclosure

Proposed suggestion for a new section (d) on Public Communications (for want of a better term) to follow after (c) Mass Transportation on page II.

Below is a rough idea that could be polished up to be included. Format is in a way consistent with the existing language in other sections.

NEW SECTION

(d) Public Communications

(1) In General.- If substantial modifications to new or existing public mass transportation systems, buildings, housing, facilities, programs and services are necessary in order to remove communication barriers(*), as required under subsection 5 (a)(2) of this Act. regulations promulgated pursuant to section 8 of this Act may unless required earlier by other law or regulations, allow a reasonable period of time, in no event to exceed three years from the effective date of this Act, for such alternations to be made.

(2) Exception.- This subsection shall not affect the duty of providers of communication services to conform to other requirements of this Act, including the requirements of other types of barriers mentioned throughout this Act and the application of such utilization requirements of assistive communication systems.(**)

(*) communication barriers = inaccessibility of:

- * utilization of telecommunication systems
- * minimum use of existing telephone relay systems
- * full television! televisicommunications (lack of ample captioning for information, safety and entertainment purposes)
- * access to public buildings, housing and facilities (lack of sufficient information &/or safety measures via visual aids, including flashing alarm systems)
- * transportation means (lack of -sufficient safety &/or information systems and personnel in mass transportation, air, train and interstate highway travel.)
- * Governments. Federal, State and local groups (lack of clear-cut regulating policies relative to communications in employment practices and information dissemination.
Emergency Personnel (lack of sufficient trained personnel such as national guards, police, fire and medical people in the field of communications with the disabled community.)
Signage (lack of clear and meaningful signs being posted or available)

(**) Assistive communication systems = devices and / or personnel assisting in facilitating active and meaningful communications

- * Television decoders (for open and closed captioning of programs)
- * Real Time captioning (making many programs, activities and events near-simultaneously communicatively accessible by utilizing stenographers with computers and television equipment)
- * Telephone relay services systems (for both individual and/or telecommunication systems)
- * Public broadcasting/ information systems (special technologies utilized to get printed/audio messages into viewing equipment)

for emergency &/or informational Purposes.)
* Interpreters
* Listening devices, loops, infrared communicative systems * all systems/devices needed and utilized by the deaf/blind * all systems/devices needed and utilized by the blind
* all systems/devices needed and utilized by other communicatively handicapped individuals

NOTE: In efforts to be consistent, there is a need to develop a full section similar to page 10 of the PROPOSED CHANGES SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

(This requires new language and I feel the lawyers/experts with the jargon can put together something good here. However I am willing to assist with the newly developed sections to assure they reflect the communicatively disabled population's perceptions.)

Need to add... _

Should include but not be limited to...

(2) STANDARDS

(3) REQUIREMENTS

A)

B) When working this I strongly feel that a time frame of 5 years will be reasonable.

There is no need to have a (c)-type section_

There is a need to add that the FCC and/or other agencies that promulgate regulations be included.