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FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Saras
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W. TW-A325
Washington DC 20554

Dear Reader:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed descriptive video rules under MM docket number 99-339.

I am blind, legally and now, in fact. I was first declared blind a 4 years of age, but "passed" as a sighted person until 14 years ago when it became necessary for me to give up my job as Supervising Elementary School Principal.

Television has been a large part of my life since I was a teenager, and saw my first "Musical Interlude." and "Test Pattern."

I will not take the time and space here to list all the usual arguments I have seen proposed for Descriptive Television, but I would like to put forth one I find very important for myself.

There is a social aspect to television. If one has lost their vision there are many things that they can not do in a functional way with the rest of the family. Television, without description, is one of those things. The blind person has a tendency to leave the television viewing area and seek out some activity, almost always of a solitary nature, to occupy themselves. (Of course, some would say this is a more productive use of time, but it is isolating.) Descriptive Television allows me to participate with others watching the described program without intruding on their enjoyment. (I have never heard anyone complain about the very well done, described programs I have listened to with others. I am sure it is possible to describe a program so poorly that sighted people are annoyed, I have personally experienced the annoyance of others when some individual has been attempting to tell me what is going on during a film)

Well enough. I am sure you get the point. Blindness is isolating. Television is one of those area where blindness limits an individuals participation. Descriptive Television allows those who can not see to take part in what is otherwise an isolating activity.

Thank you for your attention.

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Very truly yours,



J. M. Pease, Ed.D.