

A. Kay Tyberg
1012 E. Atlantic Avenue Apt. #2 Altoona, PA 16602-6929

570-494-6419/cell-text only aktyberg@gmail.com 570-279-4589/VRS

July 5, 2018

P-2015-2484229

Hearing Loss Advocate

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
3rd Floor, Room N-304
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Advocating and educating the hearing loss community and the public on the rights and needs of individuals with hearing loss. Our goal is to enhance and embrace a better quality of life and live independently.

Dear Secretary Chiavetta, Chairman Brown, Vice Chairman Place, & Commissioners Kennard, Coleman, and Sweet:

I am writing you as chair of, and on behalf of, the members of the Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Advisory Board. On May 9, 2018 the TRS Advisory Board ("the Board") met and discussed the report submitted by the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University on the results of the Wireless Expansion Initiative (WEI). This pilot program serving the southeastern Pennsylvania region explored the impact of distributing wireless devices for telecommunications on individuals with disabilities meeting the eligibility requirements for the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP) established by Act 34 of 1995. After due consideration of the findings and recommendations in the report, the Board advises the Public Utility Commission of its desire that the TDDP be expanded statewide to include wireless telecommunications devices – only; (NOT voice or data services) for Pennsylvanians with disabilities who meet all other TDDP eligibility criteria. The TRS Board suggests the PUC provide an opportunity for people with disabilities who would benefit from such a program to share their comments in this regard.

Compliance

Communication

Education

Patience

Peer Mentoring

Perseverance

Support

Thank you for your consideration of the Board's recommendations and please

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feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns preferably by e-mail at aktyberg@gmail.com or text message at 570-494-6419.

Sincerely,



Kay Tyberg

Telecommunications Relay Services/PUC of PA, Chairperson
President/co-founder of HLAA-Blair County PA Chapter
Certified Network Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainer
Certified Peer Mentor for Deaf/HOH
Hearing Loss Association of America-PA State Office
Deaf and HOH Advocate
ACDHH State Council member

cc: Gladys M. Brown, Chairman
John F. Coleman, Jr., Commissioner
Norman J. Kennard, Commissioner
Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman
David W. Sweet, Commissioner