

the most fundamental things that people do, which is to communicate.

Deafness tends to be an invisible handicap and its impact upon the individual is little appreciated or understood by the public-at-large.

Traditionally, one of the major problems facing deaf people has been the lack of public understanding which results in a relative insensitivity to the basic needs and the special needs of this unique population.

Lack of public awareness and understanding also permits subtle, as well as overt discrimination. This discrimination affects almost all areas of a deaf person's social, economic, and educational life.

One of the basic needs of deaf people is: television channels, including special programs designed for deaf audiences and regular programs which could be interpreted or captioned.

[[Regular news programs on commercial television should be captioned or interpreted in the Language of Signs for deaf persons, including the captioning or interpreting of all emergency bulletins being aired on television; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That this Body requests Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to undertake a study to investigate the feasibility of requiring television networks to provide either signing or captioning of all news broadcasts and emergency broadcasts; and be it further]]

The General Assembly of Maryland is fully cognizant of the needs of the deaf in this area, and is aware that the Federal Communications Commission has proposed rules for TV captioning for those with impaired hearing (F.C.C. Docket 20693 adopted January 28, 1976); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That this Body requests the Congress to urge the Federal Communications Commission to promptly consider the adoption of rule amendments which would make possible the implementation of the proposed rules for TV captioning for those with impaired hearing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Honorable Marvin Mandel; the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dr. Neil Solomon; the State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Sensenbaugh; the Honorable [[Dean Burch]] Richard Wiley, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, and Commissioners Lee, Reid, Hooks, Quello, Washburn, and Robinson, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington D.C.; Senators J.