

MEMORANDUM TO SENATOR DOLE

DA: May 13, 1995
FR: Alec Vachon
RE: THANKS TO YOU FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE DEAF ADVOCATES
FOR PRESSLER TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL

ATTACHED FOR YOUR SIGNATURE ARE TWO NOTES:

DAVID C. CLARKE--President, NH League for Hard of Hearing. In an attached letter, he thanks you for the disability section in the Pressler bill and supports the overall bill--"spurs competition," "lower prices for consumers." (The Pressler bill is also supported by liberal disability groups--e.g., UCPA). For the first time since I joined your office, the disability community is supporting a Republican bill--with Republican values.)

FRANK BOWE--a deaf advocate--one of the single most respected voices in the disability community--and a professor at Hofstra University in New York. Frank ginned up the New Hampshire TY, and has been sending messages to thousands of disabled people on the Internet (copy of one message attached) asking for support for the Pressler bill.

Frank believes the deregulation is both good public policy and good for people w/disabilities--by increasing affordability and innovation in telecommunications services. He also believes you can't have good disability provisions in a bill if the overall bill is bad. Although the disability provisions in the Pressler bill are "only a foot in the door," he recognizes they are an important start. Even after the demise of health care reform last year, most advocates have not learned this lesson.

BTW, In the 1970's Frank was one of the firebrands in the disability community--personally organized the sit-ins in HEW offices nationwide to get the Carter Administration to issue regs to implement section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

**One of my goals when I came to work for you 2 years ago was to identify & recruit key opinion leaders in the disability community--and in the larger policy and political world--to support your legislative work. Although you personally have great respect in the disability community, I inherited no "shadow cabinet" for advice or an organized constituency. (As you know, the disability community often acts like a wholly owned subsidiary of the Democratic Party.) This strategy seems to be paying off.

9
- Dan
- David
- Shuler



BOB DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE

May 13, 1995

Dear Mr. Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of support for S. 652, the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act. Please be assured that I am committed to passing a telecommunications bill as soon as possible.

I also appreciate your thanks for my work on the disability provisions of this bill, and your view that deregulation is both good public policy and good for people with disabilities--by increasing affordability and innovation in telecommunications services. Indeed, as a matter of general policy, I do not believe we can have good disability provisions in a bill if the overall bill is bad.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Dole".

BOB DOLE

Mr. David C. Clarke, Jr.
President
New Hampshire League for the
Hard of Hearing
P.O. Box 6624
Concord, New Hampshire 03303-6624



BOB DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE

May 13, 1995

Dear Dr. Bowe,

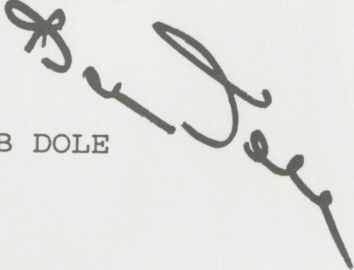
Just a brief note to thank you for your support for telecommunications deregulation and your advocacy on its behalf in the disability community. As you know better than most, it is both good public policy and good for people with disabilities--by increasing affordability and innovation in telecommunications. And the provisions in the Senate bill for people with disabilities are but a first down payment on a future where people with disabilities will be at the leading edge of a telecommunications revolution.

I also appreciate the assistance you have provided to my staff on this issue.

I look forward to your advice in the future, and please let me know if I can be helpful in any way.

With best regards,

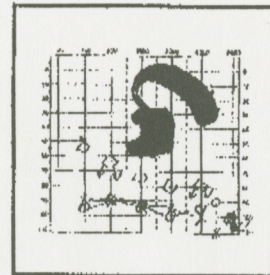
Sincerely,


BOB DOLE

Dr. Frank G. Bowe
23 Copper Beech
Lawrence, New York 11559

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE FOR
THE HARD OF HEARING

P. O. BOX 6624 • CONCORD, NH 03303-6624 • 603-796-2373 • FAX: 603-796-2373



May 12, 1995

The Honorable Robert Dole
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

On behalf of the New Hampshire residents, with or without disabilities, who support this organization, we write to urge you to schedule S.652 (Pressler), the telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act, for a Senate floor vote at the earliest opportunity.

In 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994, the telecommunication legislation failed in the Senate and/or in the House. We do not want to take the chance that 1995 repeats those failures.

Thanks largely to your personal leadership on the bill, S.652 is a comprehensive bill that provides important advances for people with disabilities. It requires ALL equipment manufacturers and ALL information service providers to make their offerings accessible to and useable by Americans with disabilities.

In addition, S.652 spurs competition across the communications industry. This competition should bring lower prices for consumers. Thus, S.652 promises accessible and affordable communications.

We urge you to accelerate Senate consideration of this very important bill and we thank you for your help.

Respectfully,

David C. Clarke, Jr.
David C. Clarke, Jr.,
President.

from Linc...

[1442] From: Bill McGarry <wtm@sheldev.shel.isc-br.com> at Internet 4/24/95
8:15

AM (15914 bytes: 480 ln)

To: L-HCAP@vm1.nodak.edu at Internet

Subject: Handicap Digest # 3813

----- Message Contents -----

Subject: Telecom Action - Advocacy Needed

From: SERFGB@vaxc.hofstra.edu (Frank Bowe)

FRANK BOWE

23 Copper Beech

Lawrence, NY 11559

FAX 516-374-4649

Internet: serfgeb@vaxc.hofstra.edu

Memo to: Fellow Advocates for Access to the Information Age

Date: 4-18-95

Re: Update and Call to Action

The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee voted 17-2 on March 23 to approve the "Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995" -- the bill sponsored by Committee Chairman Larry Pressler (R-SD). S.652 is expected to go to the Senate floor for a vote very early in May.

By May 1, YOU should contact BOTH your Senators AND the Clinton Administration with a message to support S.652.

There is a problem: the Clinton Administration has sent signals to the Senate that have slowed the bill. Vice President Al Gore, in particular, by discussing his concerns with the bill, has really slowed momentum in the Senate. Gore wants changes in cable regulation. That's fine -- but the effect of the squabble between the Administration and the Senate is to endanger the bill. There might be no bill at all! We'd lose in that case.

So it is important that advocates send letters/faxes to Gore and to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in the Commerce Department, telling them that we need telecommunications legislation - this year.

That is because the Pressler bill contains access language which will enhance our ability to "ride" on the fast-coming "Information Superhighway." The Pressler bill contains new disability access language drafted by Senate staff members. While it is not perfect, it deserves our support.

The new language requires all providers of new information services and all manufacturers of new products to make sure their offerings are accessible to/useable by people with disabilities, if readily achievable. Video (including cable and Blockbuster-type rental movies) must be captioned, if readily achievable. However, it is my understanding that there will be an amendment to strengthen the captioning language. And a study of descriptive video service is to be done by the FCC.

What YOU can do to help:

o Write Your Senators. Tell your two Senators that the Pressler bill [S.652] is one you support -- ask for a "Yes" vote on the Senate floor in early May.

The disability access language, together with full and open competition as soon as possible will benefit all people with disabilities.

The time to write to your two Senators is NOW. Your Senators may be reached at: The Honorable _____, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

o Write to Vice President Gore and to the NTIA NOW!

Vice President Gore and the NTIA should be told (in YOUR words): "We need telecommunications legislation this year. S.652, Senator Pressler's Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995, deserves support. We urge you to speed up, not slow down, Senate consideration of S.652."

Vice President Al Gore, The Old Executive Office Building,
The White House, Washington, DC 20501.

Larry Irving, NTIA, US Department of Commerce, 14th Street &
Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

IMPORTANT: I visit Washington regularly, to talk with key staff members on the Hill and in the Administration. It helps a great deal if I can bring with me evidence that "folks back home" in the States support what I'm saying. So - PLEASE - when you write to your two Senators and to Gore and Irving, mail or fax copies to me. My address and fax number are at the top of the first page.

THANKS!