

KCDHH

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

HELEN W. MOUNTJOY
SECRETARY, EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET

LIZ HILL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KCDHH

December 4, 2008

Stephanie Stumbo, Executive Director
Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd.
PO Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

RECEIVED
DEC 8 2008
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Director Stumbo:

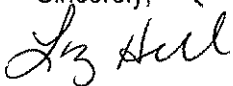
The Public Service Commission (PSC) is mandated by statute to determine the appropriate funding mechanism for the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) which is administered by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH). The TAP utilizes funds collected to provide specialized telecommunication devices to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech-impaired residents of Kentucky.

KCDHH, acting by and through its Board of Commissioners, filed a Petition on October 26, 2007, requesting that the PSC consider collecting funds from subscribers of all telecommunication services within the Commonwealth, including wireless providers. The petition (case #2007-464) is still pending as of this correspondence and we are respectfully requesting an update.

House Bill 406, passed during the 2008 Legislative session, provided KCDHH with a \$.02 cent allotment per residential telephone line to fund the TAP. However, due to the reduction in the number of telephone lines throughout the state the estimated \$480,000 allotment for FY 08-09 is projected to be \$245,000, which is insufficient to maintain the program. This represents a loss of \$235,000. As a result, TAP will accrue a waiting list for specialized equipment, delaying equitable access to telecommunications for this population. Without approval of the petition as requested KCDHH will be unable to ensure the funding base for TAP is stabilized and that funds to support TAP are collected equitably from all providers.

Please advise as to the status of case #2007-464 as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this vital request. If you have any questions, or would like more information regarding the petition, please contact me at liz.hill@ky.gov.

Sincerely,



Liz Hill, Executive Director KCDHH

CC: David L. Armstrong, Chairman PSC
Virginia L. Moore, Deputy Executive Director KCDHH

