



April 17, 2019

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Las Vegas, NV 89170-1887

Re: SB 93, Provides for a paid director position for the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired funded through the TDD surcharge funds

Dear Chair Woodhouse:

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, we are writing to oppose SB 93. While we take no position regarding making the Director of the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing a full-time paid position, we do have concerns because the bill proposes to fund compensation and other expenses for the position through an unrelated fee on wireless consumers' bills.

CTIA believes that the proposed expansion of the use of funds collected from wireless customers through the TDD surcharge, which are specifically designated for the provision of services and devices for assisting telecommunication to persons who are deaf or with impaired speech or hearing through a dual-party relay system, should not be expanded for other unrelated uses.

By expanding the purpose of the fund beyond its intent, the fund could feel pressure which could lead to an increased fee, bringing it to the 8 cents per month per access line cap. As stated in the Executive Agency Fiscal Note related to this bill, "If funding needs exceed this cap, the Commission director position would have a direct impact on funding for direct services."

Additionally, the bill proposes to make an appropriation of \$50,000 from the State General Fund to the Commission in each fiscal year of the biennium to pay for per diem, travel and administrative costs of the Commission. We urge you to amend the bill to make a State General Fund appropriation for the entire cost of this Commission, including the director



compensation and other expenses, so that the TDD surcharges funds will continue to be used for the intended purpose and no additional burden will be placed on the funding of TDD services or wireless consumers in the state of Nevada.

State General Fund moneys are most appropriately used for the Commission and position proposed in SB 93. Consumers should not be asked to provide additional funds under the auspices of providing a specific service for persons with disabilities only to find that such funds are being used for other purposes. Therefore, CTIA respectfully urges you not to pass SB 93.

Sincerely,

Lisa V. McCabe
Director, State Legislative Affairs