

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-3265**

**Petition of the Department of Labor & Industry
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for a Proposed
Pilot for Distribution of Telecommunications
Relay Service Wireless Equipment to People with
Disabilities in Pennsylvania**

**PUBLIC MEETING: December 20, 2018
2484229-CMR
Docket No. P-2015-2484229**

**Petition of the Pennsylvania Telephone
Association Requesting the Commission to
Approve Implementation of Pennsylvania Relay
Service for the Deaf, Hearing, or Speech-Impaired
Community within the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania**

Docket No. M-00900239

**Recalculation of the Pennsylvania Annual
Telecommunications Relay Service Surcharge**

Docket No. M-2018-2640814

**STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE
(AUDITS AND TASK FORCE MOTION)**

I respectfully disagree that the initiative that is proposed today to engage the Commission's Bureau of Audits and to institute a separate Task Force for the comprehensive reexamination of the existing intrastate telecommunications relay service (TRS) framework, and the associated telecommunications device distribution program (TDDP), is a useful application of Commission resources.

Our Bureau of Audits routinely and periodically conducts extensive audits of both the TRS programs and the TDDP. Consequently, I am reluctant to expand the scope of these auditing activities without a precise and clear goal.

Similarly, I do not agree with the institution of a dedicated Task Force for the comprehensive reexamination of the TRS and TDDP programs. Such generic investigative inquiries are preferably and usually framed through advance informal dialogue with all the interested and potentially active and participating stakeholders. This approach is also conducive to the better management of such generic inquiries and the production of useful policy recommendations for the Commission's future use.

Furthermore, I question the purpose of this comprehensive reexamination of the TRS and TDDP programs at this time as these programs exist and continue to function under applicable statutory directives of both Pennsylvania and federal law.

Dated: December 20, 2018



Andrew G. Place
Vice Chairman