

Collin Roehner

From: Office of Commissioner Brown
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Fwd: Proposed 2016-2017 FTRI budget
Attachments: ATT00001.htm; PSC letter 7-6-16.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and Their Representatives, Docket No. 140029-TP.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sinnott, Lynn" <LSinnott@esvf.org>
Date: July 6, 2016 at 3:31:46 PM EDT
To: "commissioner.brown@psc.state.fl.us" <commissioner.brown@psc.state.fl.us>, "commissioner.edgar@psc.state.fl.us" <commissioner.edgar@psc.state.fl.us>, "commissioner.brise@psc.state.fl.us" <commissioner.brise@psc.state.fl.us>, "commissioner.patronis@psc.state.fl.us" <commissioner.patronis@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: "phpage@psc.state.fl.us" <phpage@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: **Proposed 2016-2017 FTRI budget**

Good afternoon Commissioners,

Attached please find a letter regarding the 2016-2017 FTRI budget and its implications for Floridians with hearing loss. I will be happy to provide you with additional information if desired.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tracey McLaughlin

Executive Assistant to

Lynn Sinnott

President/CEO of Easter Seals

Volusia and Flagler

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Easter Seals of Volusia and Flagler Counties

Mission: To maximize the independence of individuals with special needs by providing exceptional service in advocacy, therapy, education, recreation and support services.

July 6, 2016

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
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Chair Julie Imanuel Brown Commissioner.Brown@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar Commissioner.Edgar@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Ronald A. Brisé Commissioner.Brise@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Jimmy Patronis Commissioner.Patronis@psc.state.fl.us

Dear Chair Brown and Fellow Commissioners:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your meeting on July 7th, and wanted to share my concern about the funding recommendations for FTRI 2016-2017.

As the Director of an RDC, I see first-hand the difference FTRI equipment makes in the lives of individuals with hearing loss. I also understand the importance of Outreach funding in assisting these individuals access the equipment. As a tax payer and a landline user, I fully understand the FTRI surcharge on my phone bill and appreciate the impact it has on my monthly bill.

During the last few years, FTRI has focused their efforts to improve outreach activities and make the RDCs more accountable. As an RDC that provides, on average, over 100 new phones each month, I fully recognize the need for an increase in the Outreach budget recommended by the FTRI Board in their approved budget for 2016-17.

I am very concerned about the proposed budget cuts that are included in Options 1 and 2 of the staff report and the proposal to decrease the FTRI charge on landlines. These cuts will adversely impact individuals with hearing loss and substantially decrease their quality of life. They will ensure decreasing services for individuals with hearing loss—at a time when that population in Florida is growing daily and more individuals lose their hearing as they age. I strongly recommend to the Commission that they approve the original FTRI budget as recommended by the FTRI Board of Directors.

Additionally, I suggest that the Commission re-evaluate their determination that new technology, such as cell phones, cannot be incorporated into the FTRI program under the original Florida statute.

I appreciate the ability to make my recommendations known to the Public Service Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Sinnott".

Lynn Sinnott
President/CEO

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*If you have arranged for Easter Seals, Volusia and Flagler in your estate plans, won't you please let us know?
Together, we can create life-changing solutions for children and adults living with disabilities, and to the families who love them.*