

From: Linda Goodspeed <lrgoodspeed@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2016 10:13 AM
To: Bill Botzow
Subject: Please support NFB Newsline

Dear Rep. Bill Botlow:

I am writing to ask your support for a bill to reestablish funding for NFB Newsline. NFB Newsline provides telephone access to print newspapers and magazines for people who are blind and visually impaired, or others who cannot read print. NFB Newsline provides access to several dozen major news outlets, including all the major newspapers such as the NY Times, Wall St. Journal, Boston Globe, etc., as well as local papers including the Rutland Herald, Barre Times Argus, Burlington Free Press and others. It also has job listings, weather alerts and TV listings.

I am a blind person living in Rutland City. Having access to local news is critical for me to fully participate in my community, learn about upcoming events, elections, who is running, platforms, special items on the ballot and other important news. I am a property owner and want to know what is going to happen to my local property taxes, drinking water, roads. I have a daughter in the local school system and want to know about activities in her school, sports, funding, etc. I want to follow my local sports teams. I want to know about crime, community happenings, business news, local attractions, who died, who is running for local office. The only way I can do this is through having access to my local newspaper. Radio and TV does not cover local events as thoroughly as a local newspaper.

a bill has been written using the Universal Service Fund to reestablish the NFB Newsline. There appears to be enough money in the fund that no increase in that tax needs to occur. We have the support of the Commissioner of the Dept. of Disability Aging & Independent Living who has been working on this legislation. **The NFB Newsline re-funding bill has been introduced as H. 786 with lead sponsor, Rep. William Canfield, and 20 co-sponsors. It has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives.** I hope you will become a sponsor and supporter of this bill to reestablish NFB Newsline.

Thank you!

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