State: Washington D.C.

Name: Matina Johnson

Occupation: In my current job, I am an instructor of various computer classes in the U.S. There are about 50 instructors at my job and we teach in person and WebEx classes. I am no longer able to perform all of my duties because of my health situation.

Wireless Health Effects: I am a person who suffers from electromagnetic sensitivity. When exposed to various wireless devices (i.e. cell phones, routers, iPads, etc.), I experience severe pain in my head and various parts of my body for approximately 8 years. A brain scan detected a growth but it hasn't been determined if it was there when I was born or afterwards. In addition to pain, I constantly have digestion and occasional spelling issues. Doctors don't know what to give me to help relieve my electromagnetic sensitivity issues. Because of this situation, it has made it challenging to do many things that are commonplace.

Wireless technology has affected my life: My career is affected because I have been in the computer field for over 15 years. I have traveled the U.S. and abroad working in the area of technology and haven't had a problem until recently. Therefore, there has to be something negative going on with the technology. I am no longer able to perform all of my duties because of my health situation. I am now on a trial period to find out if an exception can be made for me to work from home. There are approximately six government buildings where we teach. They all have wireless technology, which prevents me from being in those rooms. Also, there were one to two wireless routers within close proximity to my desks. For over a year, my company neglected to find me a wireless free desk area. Therefore, I walked from building to building with my computer and belongings every day to locate unauthorized work locations. Finally, my company got the Human Resources department involved and is currently working on providing me with reasonable accommodations.

Being a person with this health issue also affects my time with family and friends. I haven't been able to go to restaurants, movies, concerts, events, or trips because there isn't a law against wireless devices in public places. There is not even a shielded or separate location for people who have my kind of disability. I am currently out of the state attending my grandfather's funeral. We were very close. I'd like to see family member whom I haven't seen in a few years but can't attend the entire service and repast. It's hard to even go to events at people's homes because they all don't want to turn off their cell phones or even place the phone in another room. I can't attend service at my church so I have to watch it on the Internet (using my wired Internet connection). As an active member of my church, I am now limited in what I can do. Attending various events in the Washington/Metropolitan area is now a thing of the past.

Shopping for groceries, clothes, or other items is limited to very quick trips. I can only go to a few stores in one day or I will begin to feel the pain. As a result, I've started to order items online. However, all the items aren't available online and may not be as fresh as in the grocery stores. Not to mention, the items may cost more money when ordering online.

I am still learning about what could be causing issues for me in my home and neighborhood such as the Smart Meters. Because of the disability, there should be a way to not have to pay for products that companies are forcing us to use and/or remove.

Concerns about the future: I have heard from others with this health issue that they are not able to live in their communities and have lived in their cars or suffered in their current communities. Some are now inquiring about Quiet Zones like areas. These homes are away from cell towers and are

supposed to provide a safer life experience. The concern is that these communities are still a little too close to the standard communities or very far away from finding the daily essentials.

I hope in the near future that others would recognize that people who have this sensitivity to wireless type devices do exist and need to be thought of when making laws, designing buildings, and proving equal access for all people.

Thank you for your time,

Matina Johnson
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