

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 103(b): Section 715 of the Communications Act of 1934, CG Docket No. 11-47, Implementation of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, CG Docket No. 10-213, Amendments to the Commission's Rules Implementing Sections 255 and 251(a) (2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, WT Docket No. 96-198, In the Matter of Accessible Mobile Phone Options for People who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, or Have Low Vision, CG Docket No. 10-145, In the Matter of Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, MB Docket No. 11-43.*

One of the best parts of my job as Commissioner is the wonderful and totally inspiring experience of working with numerous disabilities communities. I was thrilled to watch the President sign the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act into law last October. The legislation tasks the Commission with quick and far-reaching action to expand access and opportunity for persons with disabilities in the digital age. With today's items, we continue our ambitious pace to fulfill the mandates of this important new law and harness technological innovation for persons with disabilities who want to be, need to be and indeed deserve to be, fully participating, mainstream citizens in our society. In the three Notices of Proposed Rulemaking we announce today, the Commission proposes rules to make video programming more accessible to the blind and visually impaired, to ensure the accessibility of advanced communications services and devices, and to expand contributions to our telecommunications relay services (TRS) fund. In particular, I am thrilled that we are moving forward to implement Congress' clear mandate to reinstate the video description rules. I do want to commend CBS, FOX, PBS, TCM and TNT for providing this important service in the interim on their own accord. I look forward to working with my colleagues and all stakeholders as we move forward to implement these rules swiftly and open new doors of digital accessibility for Americans with disabilities.