

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123

The Commission has taken a number of important actions relating to Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS), all of which have been aimed at fulfilling our statutory goal of ensuring that every person has equal access to this nation's communications services. The Order we adopt will help to achieve the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We are well aware that there are many Americans with hearing or speech disabilities that depend on TRS services for their daily communication needs. The Fund has seen dramatic growth over the past few years as more and more individuals with disabilities tap into all the benefits that these services offer. The Commission remains committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by ensuring that they have the same access to communication technologies as people without such disabilities. To this end we will continue to take all necessary actions to ensure that the TRS program, upon which they rely, is operated as efficiently and effectively as possible.