

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re. *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers*, CG Docket No. 03-123, WC Docket No. 05-196.

The dynamic and marvelous innovations and devices that we as consumers use everyday enable us to be connected globally whether for travel or education; entertainment or telemedicine. However, today, we ensure that all Americans benefit from advances in telecommunications services and equipment as Congress intended, specifically in times of emergency. While I often advocate a light regulatory touch for Internet-based services, it is essential that critical social goals—such as TRS—are implemented in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner across platforms, service-providers and specific technologies.

Today, we recognize that significant numbers of persons with hearing disabilities are seeking innovative services, such as Internet-based forms of TRS and therefore we must take steps to adopt rules that will encourage the utilization of innovative, new technologies and that will provide a reliable means of accessing emergency services.

As the Commission continues to consider the needs of all our consumers in this digital age, I especially value the input of those who know first-hand and best what rules will most effectively serve all consumers at the time they need it most.