

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

Re: *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123, CC Docket No. 98-67; *E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers*, WC Docket No. 05-196

I am pleased to support this item, which resolves a number of issues critical to ensuring the successful transition of Internet-based TRS services to ten-digit numbering. As of December 31, 2008, Internet-based TRS users will, for the first time, be able to make and receive calls in the same manner that voice telephone users are called – using a standard ten-digit telephone number. More importantly, 911 calls placed by Internet-based TRS users will be routed directly and automatically to the appropriate public safety answering point. This is a major step towards ensuring that those with hearing and speech disabilities are afforded “functionally equivalent” telephone services.

Our work is not, however, complete. I strongly urge service providers to cooperate to implement standards-based solutions to resolve outstanding issues whenever possible, and trust that the user community will continue to provide us with valuable input as we move forward. We will closely monitor the transition process, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that we fulfill our statutory mandate.