

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

Re: *Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service CG Docket No. 13-24;*
Telecommunications Relay Services for Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing
and Speech Disabilities, CG Docket No. 03-123.

I support this Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with caution and with the hopes that the Commission will carefully assess whether these interim measures adequately curb unnecessary growth in the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Fund (Fund). The interim Order is intended to serve as an immediate means to slow the recent spike in demand for the Fund but should not pre-judge permanent changes to the rules.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and all stakeholders as we examine the evidence in the record. We must find solutions that fulfill our statutory obligations to ensure that an individual with a hearing disability is able to communicate “in a manner that is functionally equivalent”¹ to a hearing individual’s ability to communicate with voice communications services as well as make sure that the Fund is administered in a fiscally conservative manner. After all, the Fund is ultimately financed by consumers.

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 225, as amended by Section 103(a) of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.