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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 19, 2001

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CONSUMER/DISABILITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO HOLD FIRST MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 26

Washington, DC – The FCC will receive an important new tool to assist it in serving consumers, including those with disabilities, when the Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee holds its first meeting on Monday, March 26.

Chairman Powell, Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth and Tristani will offer welcoming remarks.

The Committee is composed of 40 distinguished representatives of business, academia, consumer and disability organizations, Hispanic groups, Indian country, and the public. It will be chaired by nationally-known consumer advocate Shirley Rooker, President of the "Call For Action," the international network of radio and television stations that support consumer hotlines. A list of the Committee members is attached.

The FCC announced the establishment of the Committee on November 30, 2000. Organized under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act at the FCC, it will play a large role in keeping the Commission apprised of the needs and concerns of consumers. It will make recommendations to the Commission regarding consumer and disability issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission and facilitate the participation of consumers, including people with disabilities and underserved populations, in proceedings before the Commission.

The Committee will be divided into three subcommittee working groups: Consumer Protection and Education; Access by People with Disabilities; and Availability and Affordability of Telecommunications Products and Services. A list of these working groups with the subjects that they may be exploring is attached. Additional subject matters may be covered at the discretion of the Committee.

The meeting will be held at FCC Headquarters, 445 12th St., SW, in the Commission Meeting Room, and is open to the public. It will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude at 4:30 PM. The agenda is attached.

The meeting will be broadcast on the Internet in Real Audio/Real Video format with captioning at www.fcc.gov/cib/cdtac. The meeting will be sign language interpreted and realtime transcription will also be available. Meeting agendas and handout material will also be provided in accessible formats. The meeting site is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

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