SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

Re: Investigation of the Spectrum Requirements for Advanced Medical Technologies, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of Inquiry, and Order

Few uses of our spectrum could be more important than supporting new medical technologies that can extend and improve lives. Already, our nation's medical researchers have developed extraordinary body-worn and implanted devices that control heart rhythms to prevent attacks, mitigate the tremors of neurological patients, and help control the delivery of insulin to patients with diabetes. Around the corner are a whole host of equally awe-inspiring technologies – devices that can restore movement in paralyzed persons, improve sight among the visually-impaired, and control artificial limbs by direct interfaces with the brain and nervous system. We all owe these scientists a great measure of gratitude for their heroic efforts.

Wireless technologies are likely to play a key role in the development of these and other medical devices. The use of radiofrequencies allows doctors to send signals to and recover data from subcutaneous and implanted devices without the use of wires that are prone to infection and other forms of failure. Today's item seeks comment on how the Commission can make spectrum available for these critically important tasks, and I am happy to support it. I would like to give special thanks to our Office of Engineering and Technology, as well as our colleagues at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), for their hard work in crafting this excellent and timely item.