



NEWS

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

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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 11, 2013

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Matthew Berry, 202-418-2005
Email: matthew.berry@fcc.gov

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON UNLOCKING CELL PHONES

American consumers should not face jail time for unlocking their cell phones. This should not be a matter of criminal or copyright law. Instead, it should be addressed by contract law. If a consumer is not bound by a contract, he or she should be able to unlock his or her phone.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), as it pertains to this issue, unnecessarily restricts consumer choice and is a case of the government going too far. Fortunately, there's a simple solution: a permanent exemption from the DMCA for consumers who unlock their mobile devices. I commend the bipartisan efforts already underway to address this problem, and I hope it will be solved expeditiously.