



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> 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 20, 2014

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:  
Mark Wigfield, 202-418-0253  
E-mail: [mark.wigfield@fcc.gov](mailto:mark.wigfield@fcc.gov)

## **STATEMENT BY WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU CHIEF JULIE VEACH ON EXTENDING THE PHASE-IN OF PHONE SUBSIDY REFORMS**

**Washington, D.C.** – Wireline Competition Bureau Chief Julie Veach has issued the following statement:

“The FCC’s unanimous, bipartisan reforms of universal service in November 2011 included changes to make the system fairer for all consumers. Among these changes was the phase-out of excessive subsidies for basic phone service, which allowed some phone companies to charge their customers as little as \$5 a month at a time when the average suburban or urban customer was paying \$16. The reforms have been gradually eliminating these excessive subsidies to level the playing field for all consumers and contain the cost of the program, which is funded by universal service fees ultimately paid by consumers. As we approach the third step of this phase-in, we are seeking comment on providing additional time to allow all interested parties to adjust. We look forward to public comment on this question as we work to make universal service fair for all consumers and businesses.”

-FCC-

News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found  
on the Commission’s web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).