

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals*, CG Docket No. 10-210, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (May 21, 2015)

It was nearly five years ago that the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act was signed into law. I know because I had the honor of being there. Now seeing civil rights legislation signed into law is a powerful thing. But the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act itself is also powerful—because it built on the blueprint of the Americans with Disabilities Act and pried open the doors of opportunity and access for the Internet era.

Of course, five years is a virtual eternity when it comes to the equipment we now use to communicate. That is why I am glad we are taking a fresh look at the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program in order to take this program from pilot to permanent. This is not only the right thing to do—it's the law. That's because in the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, Congress charged the Commission with developing this program to make telephone and Internet services accessible to individuals who are deaf-blind all across the country. Already, our efforts have helped nearly two thousand people lead lives that are more productive, more connected, and more independent. I am convinced there is more good to do, more doors to pry open, and more opportunity to offer through this program. I am pleased we are on course to do so.