

Media Contact:

Mark Wigfield, (202) 418-0253
mark.wigfield@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**Statement by Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn on D.C. Circuit
Partial Stay of Inmate Calling Rate**

WASHINGTON, March 7, 2016 – Today, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted in part and denied in part motions to delay implementation of portions of the FCC’s Nov. 2015 Order reforming inmate calling rates and fees, pending the outcome of petitions for court review of the Order. While the D.C. Circuit stayed implementation of new, lower rate caps, and a related rule limiting fees for certain single call services, the Court otherwise declined to delay critical reforms including implementation of caps and restrictions on ancillary fees. Relief from these egregious fees will take effect on March 17 for prisons, and June 20 for jails. The stay does not disrupt the interim rates set by the Commission in 2013. Chairman Tom Wheeler and Commissioner Mignon Clyburn issued the following statement:

“While we regret that relief from high inmate calling rates will be delayed for struggling families and their 2.7 million children trying to stay in touch with a loved one, we are gratified that costly and burdensome ancillary charges will come to an end. These fees can increase the cost to consumers of a call by nearly 40 percent, compounding the burden of rates that are too high. This is significant relief, particularly in combination with the 2013 rate caps, and will still provide significant and meaningful relief to consumers. Ultimately, we believe the court will uphold the new rates set by the Commission. We look forward to the day when we stop erecting barriers to communication and have a system where all rates and fees paid by friends and family to stay in touch with their loved ones in jail or prison will be just, fair, and reasonable.”

###

Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500

TTY: (888) 835-5322

Twitter: @FCC

www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations

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. Cir. 1974).