

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, MB Docket No. 11-43.

It's a question we're all familiar with: What to watch? For most of us, the answer lies in a dizzying array of channels, an expanding number of screens, and an exploding range of on-demand programming. But for the 20 million Americans with vision loss—including an increasing number of veterans—answering this question is much more difficult.

Six years ago this began to change, when Congress passed the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act. This law pried open the doors of digital age opportunity and provided broader access to video programming through video description.

With video description, those with vision loss no longer miss facial expressions, visual jokes, or critical scene changes. That's because video description makes video programming accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired by inserting narrative descriptions of key visual elements in television programming. Ask anyone who is wrestling with vision loss—this is a policy that makes more programming more accessible to more of us.

Today, the Commission takes steps to update its video description requirements. We ask about increasing the number of required hours of video description programming and the number of networks subject to our rules. At the same time, we consider how viewing habits are changing. We ask how our policies should apply in a world where so much programming is on demand and scheduling our lives around an original air date is no longer necessary. These are important questions. I hope we can address them in short order. And I hope that as we do we can also provide more answers to the timeworn question about what to watch—for those who are visually impaired.