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For Immediate Release

**FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ON
SMALL SERVICE PROVIDERS REGARDING HEARING AID COMPATILITY
REPORTING**

WASHINGTON, September 26, 2017—Today, the FCC proposed revisions to its wireless hearing aid compatibility (HAC) reporting rules to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, particularly for non-nationwide service providers.

All handset manufacturers and wireless service providers are currently required to file annual status reports with the FCC on their HAC deployment and compliance efforts. The FCC is proposing rule changes to provide relief from these reporting obligations to small, rural, and regional service providers while maintaining other safeguards to ensure that all consumers enjoy the benefits of having available hearing aid compatible handsets.

Specifically, the item seeks comment on, among other things, whether to amend the FCC's HAC reporting requirements to exempt non-nationwide, wireless service providers from the annual reporting requirement. It also asks about the feasibility of reliance on informal complaints and other required sources of information to ensure industry compliance. Finally, it seeks details on the costs and benefits of the proposed reporting exemption, as well as additional ways to streamline or simplify these requirements for service providers generally.

Action by the Commission September 26, 2017 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 17-123). Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel approving. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, Carr and Rosenworcel issuing separate statements.

WT Docket No. 17-228

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