

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Revisions to Reporting Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*, WT Docket No. 17-228

Today, we seek to help small wireless providers put their resources where it matters most—towards investment and innovation that benefits their customers, instead of bureaucratic red tape.

With today's action, we aim to streamline our current hearing aid compatibility (HAC) deployment and compliance reporting requirements. Those rules require annual reporting, regardless of the size of the provider or whether that provider is subject to other HAC obligations. Numerous details are demanded, including which handsets the provider has made available to consumers since the last report that are and are not hearing-aid compatible, the frequencies over which those handsets operate, how many months the handsets have been available, and the status of product labeling and outreach efforts.

We've heard concerns, particularly from many small providers, about the burdens that creating these annual reports pose, such as the time and cost required. That's why we're exploring whether the benefits of requiring all providers to comply with the Commission's reporting requirements still outweigh the costs. Exempting small providers from the annual reporting obligations and possibly streamlining the reporting mechanisms for other carriers may relieve these burdens without affecting the Commission's ability to effectively monitor the overall status of HAC handset availability.

It's important to note that we are not changing the obligations of manufacturers and operators to provide hearing aid-compatible devices. The FCC would continue to monitor compliance with our HAC rules to ensure consumers have access to compatible devices. All we would be doing by simplifying our HAC compliance reporting efforts is helping small providers shift resources from unnecessary reporting to better services for their customers.

As always, a big thank you to the staff that worked on this item: Charles Eberle, Neşe Guendelsberger, Garnet Hanly, Eli Johnson, Aalok Mehta, Michael Rowan, Michael C. Smith, Cecilia Sulhoff, Peter Trachtenberg, and Weiren Wang from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; Robert Aldrich, Susan Bahr, Eliot Greenwald, Suzanne Singleton, and Karen Peltz Strauss from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau; Pamera Hairston, Jeremy Marcus, and Aspasia Paroutsas from the Enforcement Bureau; and Deborah Broderson, David Horowitz, Linda Oliver, Bill Richardson, and Anjali Singh from the Office of General Counsel.