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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR On D.C. Circuit Decision in ACA International v. FCC

WASHINGTON, March 16, 2018—In the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), Congress enacted provisions to help combat the unwanted robocalls that have become a far too common nuisance for far too many Americans. Unfortunately, the prior FCC exceeded the scope of the TCPA and reached a decision of "eye-popping sweep," as today's D.C. Circuit decision states. Rather than focusing our efforts on combatting illegal robocalls, the 2015 FCC decision opted to subject consumers and legitimate businesses to liability. Thankfully, the D.C. Circuit, in a unanimous decision, has now corrected that error. In the meantime, this FCC has elevated robocalls to our top enforcement priority, and we have already taken a number of important steps to combat those unlawful calls.

Going forward, I welcome the chance to continue working with my colleagues and all stakeholders to ensure that our rules protect consumers and legitimate businesses while targeting unlawful scammers and robocallers.

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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).