

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Incarcerated People’s Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket Nos. 23-62, 12-375 (October 28, 2025).

For more than a decade, the FCC has tried to set rates for inmate calling services that are both fair and legally sustainable—ones that are reasonable for callers and sufficient to ensure that providers and facilities have the resources to make those calling services available. By my count, the FCC has attempted to find the right balance on 6 separate occasions. Those decisions have resulted in no less than 4 court cases or challenges. In many cases, the courts have stayed or otherwise invalidated the FCC’s approach. This endless cycle of uncertainty is not good for anyone or any stakeholder involved in the process.

Congress took an important step forward with the passage of the Martha Wright-Reed Act in 2022. That law addressed some of the statutory authority concerns that sank prior FCC efforts and directed the FCC to weigh two specific statutory goals—namely, reasonable rates and fair compensation. In its last effort to strike the right balance, the Commission adopted new rules in 2024 to implement the Act. But as the record has shown, those rules have resulted in serious, unintended consequences. For example, by limiting how facilities could recover safety and security costs, some prisons or jails were forced to scale back or even stop offering calling services altogether. That’s not good for anyone—especially when it puts staff and public safety at risk.

Today’s action seeks to correct course by taking the lessons we’ve learned and applying them to create a new framework—one that we intend to be durable, predictable, and lawful. In doing so, this item not only stays true to the Martha Wright-Reed Act and delivers just and reasonable rates that are below rates set in 2021 by the Biden Administration, but also ensures providers can keep these vital services running safely and securely.

For their great work on this item, I’d like to thank Allison Baker, Peter Bean, Terry Cavanaugh, Bradley Craigmyle, Lynne Engledow, Shabbir Hamid, Bill Kehoe, Dick Kwiatkowski, Erik Raven-Hansen, Simon Solemani, and David Zesiger.