

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONANTHAN S. ADELSTEIN AND
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *In the Matter of Implementation of the Subscriber Carrier Selection Changes Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Policies and Rules Concerning Unauthorized Changes of Consumers' Long Distance Carriers*
(CC Docket No. 94-129)

In the Telecommunications Act, Congress recognized the importance of protecting consumers from unscrupulous practices like slamming. Congress specifically charged the Commission with putting in place rules that prevent unauthorized carrier changes. We support today's decision because we believe it is consistent with the letter and spirit of this directive.

We nonetheless recognize that our slamming prevention rules, and in particular our third-party verification requirements, may pose a burden on smaller service providers. But evidence describing the extent of this burden was limited in the instant proceeding. Without a more substantial record, we cannot support granting the waiver of such an important consumer protection requirement. Still, we remain willing—and believe we have an obligation—to consider less costly ways for providers to comply with our slamming rules, provided they adequately protect consumers from unauthorized carrier changes.

