DISSENTING STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

Re: Emmis Radio License Corporation, Licensee of Station WKQX(FM), Chicago, Illinois, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture

I dissent from today's decision upholding an Enforcement Bureau decision that I believe is woefully inadequate. In response to complaints about five separate incidents aired on WKQX-FM, the Enforcement Bureau dismissed three of the complaints, including one in which sex between a 27 year old man and a nine year old child was discussed on the air. In the other two incidents – an interview with three women about oral sex and a discussion with a porn star about sexual activities – the Enforcement Bureau imposed a fine of \$7000 for each incident. I also note that since addressing these five broadcasts, we have received additional complaints about this same station and same program, and the Enforcement Bureau has continued to propose \$7000 fines on four different occasions. Such fines will be easily absorbed as a "cost of doing business." Our enforcement actions should send a message that licensees cannot ignore their responsibility to serve the public interest and to protect children. The Commission's action today fails to do so.