STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

Re: Investigation of the Spectrum Requirements for Advanced Medical Technologies;
Amendment of Parts 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Establish the
Medical Device Radio Communications Service at 401-402 and 405-406 MHz;
DexCom, Inc. Request for Waiver of the Frequency Monitoring Requirements of
the Medical Implant Communications Service Rules; Biotronik, Inc. Request for
Waiver of the Frequency Monitoring Requirements for the Medical Implant
Communications Service Rules; *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of
Inquiry and Order*

Few uses of our spectrum could be more important than supporting new medical
technologies that can extend and improve lives. Already, our nation's medical
researchers have developed extraordinary body-worn and implanted devices that control
heart rhythms to prevent attacks, mitigate the tremors of neurological patients, and help
control the delivery of insulin to patients with diabetes. Around the corner are a whole
host of equally awe-inspiring technologies – devices that can restore movement in
paralyzed persons, improve sight among the visually-impaired, and control artificial
limbs by direct interfaces with the brain and nervous system. We all owe these scientists
a great measure of gratitude for their heroic efforts.

Wireless technologies are likely to play a key role in the development of these and
other medical devices. The use of radiofrequencies allows doctors to send signals to and
recover data from subcutaneous and implanted devices without the use of wires that are
prone to infection and other forms of failure. Today's item seeks comment on how the
Commission can make spectrum available for these critically important tasks, and I am
happy to support it. I would like to give special thanks to our Office of Engineering and
Technology, as well as our colleagues at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and
the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), for their hard
work in crafting this excellent and timely item.