

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123, CC Docket No. 98-67; *E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers*, WC Docket No. 05-196

Today, the Commission fulfills its obligation to ensure that telecommunications services and equipment are more accessible to individuals with disabilities. In this Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, we address several issues included in our June 24, 2008 *Internet-based TRS Order* that are critical to ensuring a successful transition to a ten-digit numbering system for users of Internet-based TRS, particularly Video Relay Service and IP Relay.

Specifically, we address 911 implementation issues, reminding providers that they must ensure that both incoming 911 calls are prioritized as well as emergency service personnel callbacks. We also reaffirm user registration requirements and address eligibility requirements, verification procedures, assignment of telephone numbers, and numbering cost issues. By doing so, we clarify and set parameters for providers offering services, address the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and ultimately provide a framework for successful implementation of a telephone network that is “functionally equivalent” to voice telephone services at the end of 2008. I commend Chairman Martin for his commitment to this issue and for taking important steps toward making equal access to communications services for *all* Americans a reality.