

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

RE: *Amendment of Parts 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Provide Additional Spectrum for the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service in the 413-457 Band, ET Docket No. 09-36*

Today's Commission action represents the best of government performing a core mission: helping others in need. Sadly, it has taken the government far too long to act in this important proceeding. Regrettably, bureaucratic delay literally forced disabled patients to wait much longer than necessary to benefit from some amazing emerging technologies. Nonetheless, I have had the privilege to work closely with the Alfred Mann Foundation (AMF) throughout this challenging process on the regulatory aspects of its groundbreaking research, and I am delighted that this day has finally come.

Neuromuscular injuries and disorders impose tremendous physical, psychological and financial burdens. After years of investment and research, AMF produced remarkable technologies that allow paralyzed people to regain use of their limbs. Such a vision was imaginable only in the texts of science fiction a few years ago. Yet AMF has made it a reality for stroke victims, people paralyzed in accidents and America's wounded veterans.

AMF's miraculous inventions, however, require low power use of specific wireless frequencies; hence, the need for government approval. From a technical standpoint, we are implementing a sharing technique that maximizes efficiency and employs spectrum in a dynamic manner, important policies for which I have advocated for some time. It has been a lengthy process, yet worth the wait – AMF is poised to revolutionize medical treatments and therapies to improve the lives of millions of people, and to bring a measure of comfort and peace of mind to their families and friends.

Congratulations to AMF for its perseverance and commitment. Thank you to Chairman Genachowski for bringing this order to a vote and also to then-Acting Chairman Copps for moving forward on the notice of proposed rulemaking after an unnecessarily lengthy delay. I remember vividly our conversation in January of 2009 that led to this day. So thank you for your leadership. Thank you also to our dedicated and talented Office of Engineering and Technology staff for your important work.

Most importantly, congratulations to the paralyzed patients who now have more than hope to support them – they will have the power of their own bodies. To you I also offer the apology of your government for consuming nearly half a decade to reach this point.