

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Provide Spectrum for the Operation of Medical Body Area Network, First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 08-59

This is a decision with revolutionary potential. Today's Order makes the United States the first in the world to allocate spectrum for Medical Body Area Networks (MBANs).

The promise of this technology is extraordinary. By using small, low-powered sensors on the body, we can capture a wide range of physiological data. Information about blood pressure, glucose, oxygen concentration in the blood, and other medical metrics can then be sent along wirelessly to health care providers. This reduces the cost of patient monitoring. It frees patients from being tethered to a messy collection of wires and devices, both in the hospital and in the home. It makes way for medical care that is more accurate, more patient-centered, and more preventive. It will save lives.

Our action today would not be possible without the creative efforts of many people across multiple industries. I want to thank the health care providers, device manufacturers, and aeronautical industry for their willingness to hammer out a compromise in service of the greater good. By working through the complex technical and operational issues and developing a joint proposal for sharing in the 2360-2400 MHz band, they have done more than facilitate the further development and use of MBANs. They have served as a model for developing shared use policies for spectrum that address interference concerns while allowing new services to flourish. With the growing demand for spectrum resources, it is cooperative efforts like this that give us hope and faith.

As the Further Notice indicates our work is not done. We must establish registration and coordination procedures. I am hopeful that Commission staff, working with interested parties, will proceed quickly through the next stages of this proceeding so that MBAN devices will soon become available in our hospitals and homes.

More, too, can be done with other Commission programs that facilitate the use of technology in medical care. Building on its work in the Medical Radio Service, the Commission has already expanded it to include medical micro-power networks. It has a first of its kind memorandum of understanding with the Food and Drug Administration to promote the development of new medical devices. Going forward, the Commission may also need to update its universal service rural health care mechanism, which helps bring high-capacity broadband networks to rural health care providers.

Finally, let me thank the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology. This effort is a testament to their abilities to wrestle with hard issues and see them through to resolutions that facilitate innovation and improve lives.