

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER AJIT V. PAI**

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

However complex the technical details, this item's purposes are simple: to save lives and reduce health care costs. Through the use of Medical Body Area Network ("MBAN") devices, health care professionals will be better able to monitor their patients and can intervene at an earlier stage if warning signs emerge. Moreover, wireless MBAN devices can reduce the risk of infection, improve patient comfort and convenience, and even obviate the need for an initial or extended hospital admission. Thus, by establishing service rules and allocating spectrum for MBAN devices, the FCC today is enabling significant, positive impacts on Americans' health and on overall health care costs.

In terms of procedural history, the road to adoption has been long. Indeed, this proceeding resulted from a Notice of Inquiry issued by the Commission in the summer of 2006 seeking comment on the spectrum needs of wireless medical devices. Our ability to take definitive action at long last is due in large part to the efforts of the health care and flight testing communities. By working together cooperatively on a joint proposal for the sharing of spectrum, they set the stage for final Commission action. I hope that their approach will serve as a model for parties participating in current and future spectrum proceedings. As we seek to allocate spectrum and deploy technology for innovative uses in a timely manner, it will be necessary for stakeholders to come to the table in good faith and to be open to compromise. The perfect should not be the enemy of the good. The merits of this approach are made apparent in this item.

While today's vote marks an important milestone in this proceeding, our work is not yet done. In order to pave the way for the development and deployment of MBAN devices, we must respond quickly to the comments we receive in response to the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, issue rules related to the selection of an MBAN coordinator, and then select that coordinator. In my view, these steps should be completed within a year. It is therefore encouraging that the item sets a target of final action by June 2013. Additionally, once MBAN devices begin to be deployed, we should assess their performance and see if there are opportunities to expand their use. While today's item appropriately takes a cautious view with respect to many issues, I am open to taking a more forward-leaning approach in the future if the evidence warrants.

Finally, I commend the Chairman for his leadership on this issue and the staff in the Office of Engineering and Technology for their fine work on this item. I look forward to casting many more votes in future meetings to facilitate the innovative use of spectrum and technology to improve the lives of Americans.