STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY

Re: NBC/Telemundo Applications for Renewal of Licenses and Compliance with the Children's Television Act of 1990, as implemented by Section 73.671; and Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii) of the Commission's Rules

I approve this consent decree between the Commission and NBC Telemundo, which resolves concerns over compliance with our children's television programming obligations and reporting requirements, allowing the Commission to approve pending broadcast station license renewals. All entities should be aware that the Commission expects full compliance by those subject to our rules, and such an experienced licensee should have a firm grasp of its FCC obligations or seek appropriate Commission waivers, as necessary.

At the same time, the compliance issues raised by the consent decree amplify problems with and the need for important revisions to Commission's underlying children's television programming rules. The issues generating this item – preemption for live, high-demand programming and overly burdensome reporting requirements – are exactly those that justify the Commission's review of its current children's television programming rules. In the end, I am confident that we can revise our rules to provide necessary and appropriate flexibility for local broadcasters while preserving and/or improving the experience of those watching children's programming.