

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS**

Re: *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123; *Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Services Program*, CG Docket No. 10-51.

For an agency, it is typically good governance to develop more of a record than less—in that way, the additional questions sought by VRS industry participants add important context to this discussion. I believe this will ultimately lead to improved functional equivalence and service quality that will benefit those who need VRS to communicate and function seamlessly in our society. It is also prudent to extend the current rates while we gather more data and insight on what service levels will look like on the other side of the COVID pandemic. I am therefore pleased to support this Notice and Order, and I thank the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau staff for their hard work on the item.