

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Speech-to-Speech and Internet Protocol (IP) Speech-to-Speech Telecommunications Relay Services*, CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 08-15, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Nov. 20, 2025).

Modernization is a cornerstone of the FCC's Build America Agenda. One way we advance this goal is by taking a first principles approach to the FCC's work. With today's item, we apply this approach to accessibility.

This year marks the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The FCC plays a key role in implementing and enforcing the ADA's requirements, including for Telecommunications Relay Services, which allows people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech impaired to place or receive telephone calls in a functionally equivalent way. TRS facilitates calls for hundreds of thousands of Americans every year.

But a lot has changed over the last thirty-five years. Accessible technology looks very different today, and older technologies like the teletypewriter or TTY have seen a steep decline in use due to the availability of newer, accessible technologies that operate on modern, IP-based networks.

That's why it's time for the FCC to modernize TRS while also ensuring that relay services remain effective and sustainable for Americans with disabilities. Today we propose to terminate the mandatory status of TTY Relay for state-based TRS programs and seek comment on ways to transition current analog TRS users to modern technologies. We also propose to eliminate or modify outdated rules that no longer reflect reality. I look forward to a robust record in this proceeding.

For their great work on this item, I'd like to thank Ed Bartholme, Lisa Wilson Edwards, Joshua Mendelsohn, and Michael Scott from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau as well as staff from the Offices of General Counsel, Economics and Analytics, Managing Director, and Communications Business Opportunities.