

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Today the Commission takes steps to update and improve the effectiveness of its low-income support mechanism. The Commission's statutory charge is to ensure that all Americans have access to quality services at just, reasonable and affordable rates. Because of policies like the Lifeline and Link-Up programs, today more than 95% of all U.S. households have basic telephone services. By expanding the Federal default eligibility criteria today, we make it easier for many households to participate and make support more easily available for thousands of Americans in need.