For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT OF MMTC ON THE DTV TRANSITION

Congress should make absolutely sure that yet another DTV transition postponement won’t be necessary after June 12.

On January 22, Nielsen reported that although 4.6% of white Americans are “completely unready” for the transition, 6.9% of Asian Americans, 9.7% of Hispanic Americans, and 9.9% of African Americans are “completely unready.” MMTC understands that DTV unreadiness is especially high in Puerto Rico, Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Valley.

Therefore, Congress and the administration should take these five steps:

1. Advertise extensively on local minority radio and television stations to get the word out.

2. Dramatically expand in-language, door-to-door, peer-to-peer outreach, which can overcome many immigrants’ fear of government programs. This grassroots outreach should include assistance securing coupons and installing converter boxes.

3. Make coupons available to families in single-address multi-family dwellings.

4. Avoid confusion by thoroughly publicizing any postponement.

5. Hold a one-day summit at the FCC with every stakeholder: retailers, commercial and public broadcasters, civil rights organizations, consumer groups, and NTIA, and draw up specific plans with benchmarks and clear responsibilities.

MMTC, the leading civil rights organization in media and telecom, represents 62 national organizations in various FCC proceedings, operates two fellowship programs, and trains minorities in broadcast operations.

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