

# PUBLIC INTEREST PAYPHONES

- ◆ Federal role should be minimal
  - States and localities should decide where and when to place public interest payphones
  - FCC must ensure that public interest payphones are supported “fairly and equitably”
- ◆ Requesting entity should pay
  - Competitive bids will determine market price
  - Public interest payphones can be part of larger contract with PSPs
- ◆ Grandfather the California plan at the request of Pacific Bell
  - Plan is unique to California, where there is high degree of competition and low percentage of public interest payphones
  - In other states, tax on competitive payphones would be onerous and price many payphones out of the market
- ◆ Semi-public phones should be detariffed and deregulated
  - Provided on a contract basis just like other payphones; only financial arrangements with location provider are different
  - Business owners have other options to allow customers to make calls: e.g., regular business access line with toll restrictions