



June 25, 2019

The Honorable Michael F. Doyle, Chairman  
The Honorable Robert E. Latta, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman  
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

The undersigned consumer and privacy organizations write to express our strong support for the bipartisan version of the [“Stopping Bad Robocalls Act \(HR 3375\)”](#) unveiled on June 20, 2019. **This bill**, as currently structured, **will substantially reduce the number of unwanted automated calls made to the cell phones and residential landlines of American telephone subscribers.**

Critically, this bill will require that telemarketers, debt collectors, and others actually stop making the calls that are harassing Americans and devaluing the American telephone system. The bill will:

- Require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue regulations that will interpret key terms in the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), such as automated telephone dialing system and prerecorded voice messages, to cover the systems currently responsible for the billions of unwanted calls and texts made monthly, and ensure that consent is always required for these calls and texts unless there is an emergency (Section 2). **This provision gives the FCC the ability to prohibit most unwanted calls, including those from telemarketers and debt collectors.**
- Closely restrict the exemptions from the requirement for consent that the FCC can allow (Section 3). **This provision will limit the ability of callers who have violated the law to**

**obtain retroactive waivers of liability from the FCC, thereby ensuring that they comply with the law in the first place.**

- Require that the FCC to report to Congress on its work to quickly implement a reassigned number database with a narrow and appropriate safe harbor for callers (Section 4). **This provision will help to stop most of the repeated wrong number calls, especially from debt collectors.**
- Provide the FCC with the tools to enforce the law and find and prosecute robocallers, by extending the statute of limitations for FCC action from one year to three, and in some instances four, years for callers violating robocall prohibitions (Section 5). **This provision will strengthen the FCC's ability to stop scam and illegal telemarketing calls.**
- Require the implementation of a strong call authentication technology nationwide, and require that the challenges facing small, rural phone customers also be addressed (Section 7). **This provision will enable us to trust the information on caller ID once again.**
- Require that the FCC permit telephone service providers to implement opt-out call-blocking systems with no additional line item charges to consumers (Section 8). **This provision will limit the cost of call-blocking technologies.**

Consumers of all political persuasions are harassed and their privacy abused by robocalls, while the powerful forces of the American corporations who are making money from these unwanted robocalls are pressuring the FCC, the courts, and this Congress, to allow them to continue their tormenting calls. **We strongly urge members to stand with consumers and support HR 3375, *without weakening amendments*, and stop unwanted robocalls.**

For questions, or further information, please contact Margot Saunders, Senior Counsel, National Consumer Law Center, ([msaunders@nclc.org](mailto:msaunders@nclc.org)).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Americans for Financial Reform

Center for Responsible Lending

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

National Association of Consumer Advocates

National Consumer Law Center on behalf of its low-income clients

Public Citizen

Public Knowledge

