

United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400
(202) 224-5364

June 17, 2015

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission:

We write to express our strong support for the portion of the proposed declaratory ruling announced by Chairman Wheeler on May 27, 2015, that would clarify that common carriers can offer robocall blocking technology without violating the Commission's call completion rules. We urge the full Commission to adopt this portion of the proposed declaratory ruling.

The Senate Special Committee on Aging has long been concerned about the cascade of robocalls that disrupt, annoy, and harass all Americans, but appear to disproportionately affect our seniors. The Federal Trade Commission currently receives approximately 150,000 robocall complaints *a month* (and these numbers are almost certainly substantially underreported). This is a situation that cannot continue. Whether these calls are an unwanted sales pitch or the beginning of a scam, they must be stopped.

The Committee held a hearing on June 10, 2015, titled *Ringling Off the Hook: Examining the Proliferation of Unwanted Calls*. During this hearing Professor Henning Schulzrinne, a former FCC Chief Technology Officer and current FCC consultant, explained how advances in technology have made it easy for unscrupulous actors to place a virtually limitless number of robocalls cheaply. Prof. Schulzrinne also explained how new technology makes it simple for robocallers to disguise or "spoof" a caller ID. As Prof. Schulzrinne explained, however, it is possible to fight technology with technology, and the technology exists *now* for carriers to offer robocall filters that have been proven to be effective in combatting robocalls.

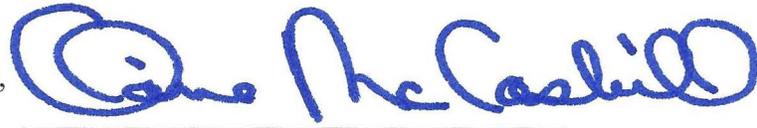
As we understand it, the primary impediment to carriers deploying robocall filters *today* is a concern that these filters violate call completion requirements. We believe that concern is misplaced. Indeed, we have recently introduced the "Robocall and Call Spoofing Enforcement Improvements Act of 2015," (S. 1540) which expresses the Sense of Congress that telecommunications carriers have the legal authority to offer consumers services that block or filter robocalls. We are extremely pleased that Chairman Wheeler's proposal is consistent with our view of the law, and urge its adoption.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to protect Americans from the scourge of unwanted robocalls.



Susan M. Collins
Chairman

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member