

REP. SLOTKIN'S DRAFT REMARKS BEFORE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE ON ROBOCALLS:

- Thank you M.___ Chair for the opportunity to testify before you today.
- Mr_. Chair, if you're like me, and if you're like most Michiganders, you hate getting robocalls.
- Certainly in Michigan, whether you're a Democrat or Republican, this is an issue that unites us all in shared frustration.
- In fact, shortly after I was elected, I had a meeting with a local, Republican mayor in our district, and asked him what was one thing I should be sure to work on in Congress.
- I expected him to talk about a particular grant, or maybe roads or water -- but he said, "robocalls," and we spent a long time that day talking about just how pervasive this issue is in our community, and what Congress can do it about.
- Let me tell you a bit about how this issue is affecting us in Michigan specifically: Last year alone, an estimated 1.2 billion robocalls were made to people who live in Michigan. Experts are estimating that, already in 2019 Michiganders have already received over 784 million robocalls.
- It feels like they're getting worse -- and they are: the number of robocalls in Michigan has already gone up 143% since this time last year.

- It's important to note that this problem is more than just a daily annoyance -- these calls are scamming consumers out of their money and stealing personal information.
- Americans lost an estimated \$10.5 billion dollars this year due to robocall scams. These scammers prey on the most vulnerable among us, particularly seniors.
- We also know that scammers use "number spoofing" to make it look like they're calling from a local number.
- This causes serious problems in our communities as people have begun ignoring calls they don't recognize from their same area code. This can have serious ramifications when you think about healthcare professionals, business-owners, parents,
- Clearly, this problem is pervasive and serious. Everywhere I go in Michigan's 8th district, I get the question, "by the way, is there anything you can do about those pesky robocalls?"
- The good news is that we can.
- I was proud to see the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, a bill that was introduced in this committee and which I co-sponsored, pass in the House yesterday.
- This bill is a really important first step to stemming the scourge of robocalls, and I sincerely hope the Senate takes it up.
- And I am here today to say: let's keep our foot on the gas. I want to encourage this Committee to take up the pending legislation you are considering on this topic, so that we can put an end to these bothersome and threatening robocalls.

- This is an issue that has broad bipartisan support, and ***directly responds to a pervasive issue that affects our constituents' daily lives.***
- **That is our duty as members of Congress, and I'm glad that we get to do it on an issue where there is such strong demand from our constituents.**
- Thank you.