

**This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.**

RPTR MCCONNELL

EDTR SECKMAN

MARKUP OF:

H.R. 2566, IMPROVING RURAL CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY ACT OF 2015;

AND

H.R. 2669, ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2015

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

House of Representatives,

Subcommittee on Communications

and Technology,

Committee on Energy and Commerce,

Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 5:05 p.m., in Room 2322, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Gus M. Bilirakis presiding.

Present: Representative Bilirakis.

Staff Present: Rebecca Card, Assistant Press Secretary; Karen

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Christian, General Counsel; Gene Fullano, Detailee, Telecom; Giulia Giannangeli, Legislative Clerk, CMT, E&E; Kelsey Guyselman, Counsel, Telecom; Dan Schneider, Press Secretary; Gregory Watson, Legislative Clerk, C&T; Jen Berenholz, Minority Chief Clerk; David Goldman, Minority Chief Counsel, Communications and Technology; Matt Schumacher, Minority Press Assistant; and Ryan Skukowski, Minority Senior Policy Analyst.

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Mr. Bilirakis. The subcommittee will come to order, the chairman recognizes himself for an opening statement.

Good afternoon. The Anti-Spoofing Act is an important piece of legislation for all of our constituents. Countless people across our Nation have been victims of the unethical and illegal tactics of falsified caller ID information.

Earlier this year, one of my constituents from Tampa told me his family's story. His telephone information was stolen and used to make thousands of automated calls around the country. He then stated, and I quote: "We started receiving phone calls from hundreds of people a day. These callbacks ranged from the irate to the confused but have made the use of our phone impossible," end quote. This constituent was forced to replace their phone hardware, lost the regular use of their home phone, and had to change his home phone number of 15 years to get the peace he deserves in his own home. This should not happen. This is just one of thousands of stories around the country.

I am glad that we will move forward with the Anti-Spoofing Act today to further prevent the use of false caller ID information and protect the privacy of our constituents.

I am also pleased to see a markup on the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act to ensure our most rural communities and businesses have access to high-quality landline connections. This continues our efforts to help promote quality of life and opportunity for all Americans.

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And I yield back.

And what I will do, if there are no other members that want to be recognized, the chair reminds members that, pursuant to the committee rules, all members' opening statements will be made part of the record.

Are there further opening statements?

Seeing none, the chair calls up H.R. 2566 and asks the clerk to report -- we do have, yes. Yes. You are recognized for your opening statement, please.

All right. A little confusion there, a different markup. We are in good shape now. The chair calls up H.R. 2566 and asks the clerk to report.

The Clerk. H.R. 2566, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is disposed with and the bill will be open for amendment at any point. So ordered.

[The bill follows:]

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Mr. Bilirakis. We are now on H.R. 2566. The subcommittee will reconvene tomorrow at 10 a.m. I remind members that the chair will give priority recognition to bipartisan amendments. I look forward to seeing all of you tomorrow.

Without objection, the committee stands in recess. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 5:10 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]