

DR. JEFFERSON VAN DREW  
2ND DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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CO-CHAIR OF THE BLUE DOG COALITION  
TASKFORCE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

April 30, 2019

Chairman Doyle, Ranking Member Latta, and members of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, I thank you for including my bill, H.R. 1575, "The Robocall Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2019", in today's legislative hearing entitled, "Legislating to Stop the Onslaught of Annoying Robocalls".

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me today to speak about the annoying and incessant telemarketing and robocalls that we all, and millions across America, receive daily. Telemarketing scams are at an all time high, and the use of robocalls and spoofing practices in those scams has been an important key to their success. The Robocall Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2019:

- Authorizes the FCC to pursue cases against rule violations without first issuing a citation;
- Increases the stature of limitations for the FCC to pursue spoofing violations from two years to three years; and
- Increases the statute of limitations for the FCC to pursue robocall violations from one year to three years.

As a New Jersey State Senator, I sponsored the original Do Not Call list for the state and fought to strengthen that list to limit the ability of robocallers to annoy and prey upon our citizens. Data shows that New Jersey residents reported 321,393 robocall complaints last year alone - more than any other state in the nation.

Robocall scams are at an all-time high and getting worse. One report estimates that the number of spam calls will grow from 30 percent of all phone calls in 2018 to 42 percent in 2019. In 2017 alone, the Federal Trade Commission received more than 4.5 million robocall complaints, an increase of over a million calls from the year before. Many of these scams take advantage of senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, and it is time we protect consumers by ensuring those who violate the law are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

I appreciate the subcommittee's attention to this timely problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Van Drew". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Jeff Van Drew  
U.S. Representative  
New Jersey – District 2