



# NEWS

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**Federal Communications Commission**  
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**Washington, D. C. 20554**

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## **COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS CALLS FOR ACTION TO ADDRESS THEFT OF PHONE RECORDS**

Reacting to reports that private wireless and wireline phone records, including phone numbers dialed, calls received, and even the location of wireless callers, are available for sale, Commissioner Michael J. Copps stated:

“The reported abuses highlight the critical need to protect Americans’ personal and private information. Few rights are so fundamental as the right to privacy in our daily lives, yet few are under such constant attack. Americans deserve the security of knowing that their private phone records are not for sale.

“I am pleased that the FCC is launching an inquiry. This must be a priority because every day such a problem exists puts American citizens needlessly at risk. So, we must move swiftly to determine how and to what extent data brokers are obtaining Americans’ private phone records. The FCC also must determine if phone companies are doing enough to protect the personal and private information with which they are entrusted. We should then act quickly ourselves, and as the government’s telecommunications expert, assist Congress and other Agencies to do so as well. Congress recognized that privacy is a critical consumer right and enshrined this right in the law. These incidents further highlight the need to act on the petition filed by the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) on enhanced security standards for access to consumer records. The FCC must ensure that it is doing everything it can to prevent illegal theft of Americans’ phone records.”

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