



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 21, 2017

The Honorable Bob Casey
Ranking Member
Committee on Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
G31 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to permit telecommunications providers to block spoofed robocalls. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

Robocalls are consistently a top consumer complaint to the FCC from the public. As you note, it is reported that U.S. consumers have been bombarded by an estimated 2.4 billion robocalls a month in 2016. Not only are unwanted robocalls intrusive and irritating, but as your Committee has clearly established, they are also frequently employed to scam our most vulnerable populations, like elderly Americans, out of their hard-earned dollars.

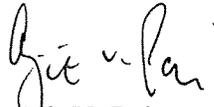
Last month, the Commission took important next steps to combat the scourge of robocalls by proposing rules to permit providers to block spoofed robocalls when the caller uses an unassigned or invalid phone number. These are numbers that are either unassigned under the North American Numbering Plan; not allocated to a phone company; or not assigned to a subscriber. In each case, there is no legitimate reason for anyone to spoof such a number. By allowing providers to block calls from unassigned numbers, we can help stop scammers.

The proposed rules also would allow providers to block spoofed robocalls when the subscriber to that telephone number requests that calls originating from that number be blocked (sometimes called a "Do-Not-Originate" request). We also seek comment on further steps the Commission could take to protect consumers and empower voice service providers to block illegal robocalls. The Commission is committed to helping industry and consumers stop illegal and unwanted robocalls, including by encouraging companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and working to develop comprehensive solutions to prevent, detect, and filter unwanted robocalls.

Page 2—The Honorable Bob Casey

I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I look forward to working with you to protect consumers from the scourge of illegal robocalls. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



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Chairwoman
Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
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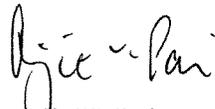
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