

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls*, CG Docket No. 17-59; *Call Authentication Trust Anchor*, WC Docket No. 17-97; Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Order, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (May 19, 2022)

Robocalls are aggravating. What is worse is when we crack down on these junk calls, the scam artists behind them find new ways to reach us. Increasingly, that means robocalls are coming in from overseas. In fact, one study suggests that last year as much as two-thirds of this stuff may now come from abroad.

So today we get tough on international robocalls. That's because we need to cut these calls off before they reach our shores, our homes, and our phones.

In practice, what this means is that we are making gateway providers—the carriers that serve as the domestic entry point for calls from abroad—use STIR/SHAKEN call authentication technology, register in our Robocall Mitigation Database, and comply with traceback requests from the Federal Communications Commission and law enforcement to help figure out where these junk calls are originating from overseas.

These measures will help us tackle the growing number of international robocalls. Because we can't have these scam artists multiplying abroad and hiding from our regulatory reach. We also can't have them hiding from our state counterparts. That is why I am proud that today we are announcing that we now have 36 State Attorneys General who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FCC to share resources and information to crack down on robocalls.

This is progress. But we do need additional authority over robocalls to fight this scourge on all fronts. Last year the Supreme Court narrowed the definition of autodialer in a case involving the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. It's perverse, because their decision leads to less consumer protection from these annoying calls. We need help from Congress to fix that. We also need more tools from Congress to catch those behind these calls, including the ability to go to court directly and collect fines from these bad actors—each and every one of them.

Thank you to the Robocall Response Team for their efforts on gateway providers, including Jerusha Burnett, Aaron Garza, Alejandro Roark, Karen Schroeder, Mark Stone, and Kristi Thornton from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau; Lisa Gelb, Daniel Stepanicich, Kristi Thompson, and Lisa Zaina from the Enforcement Bureau; Kimberly Cook and Jim Schlichting from the International Bureau; Belford Lawson, Maura McGowan, and Joy Ragsdale from the Office of Communications Business Opportunities; Eugene Kiselev, Virginia Metallo, Mark Montano, Chuck Needy, Michelle Schaefer, and Emily Talaga from the Office of Economics and Analytics; Valerie Hill, Richard Mallen, Linda Oliver, William Richardson, and Derek Yeo from the Office of General Counsel; Cathy Williams from the Office of the Managing Director; Kenneth Carlberg and David Furth from the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; and Pam Arluk, Allison Baker, Michele Berlove, Matt Collins, Megan Capasso Danner, Elizabeth Drogula, Jesse Goodwin, Trent Harkrader, Jonathan Lechter, Zach Ross, and John Visclosky from the Wireline Competition Bureau.