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**For Immediate Release**

**FCC REAFFIRMS \$225 MILLION SPOOFED ROBOCALL FINE**

***Telemarketer Made 1 Billion Robocalls and Asked for Leniency but FCC Stands by Its Consumer Protections and Reaffirms the Consequences for Illegal Robocalls***

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2023—The Federal Communications Commission today rejected a petition to reconsider its [\\$225 million fine](#) against telemarketers for transmitting approximately 1 billion robocalls, many of them illegally spoofed, to sell short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans. The robocalls falsely claimed to offer health insurance plans from well-known health insurance companies such as Blue Cross Blue Shield and Cigna.

“Junk calls are not only annoying, but also put consumers at risk of falling prey to scams,” said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. “We’re continuing our fight against robocalls, and won’t stop until we get all of them off our networks.”

The parties, John C. Spiller and Jakob A. Mears, who used business names including Rising Eagle and JSquared Telecom, had the right to petition for reconsideration, but reconsideration of such an order is only given if the parties offer new facts that were not available for their prior response when the agency initially proposed the forfeiture.

The FCC will refer the matter to the Department of Justice for collection. In recent years, the Department has [filed suit](#) to collect a \$9.9 million FCC fine for illegal robocalls and more recently a \$120 million FCC fine for illegal spoofing. In addition, Chairwoman Rosenworcel has proposed to Congress that the FCC be given its own authority to take robocallers to court if they fail to pay an FCC fine.

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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. Cir. 1974).*