

**Media Contact:**

Will Wiquist  
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

**For Immediate Release**

**FCC CHAIRWOMAN CALLS ON CARMAKERS AND WIRELESS COMPANIES TO HELP ENSURE THE INDEPENDENCE AND SAFETY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS**

*Connected Cars Have Been Used to Stalk, Harass, and Intimidate Survivors*

WASHINGTON, January 11, 2024—FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel today wrote to auto manufacturers as well as wireless service providers to seek their help in protecting domestic abuse survivors from the misuse of connected car tools by abusers. As modern vehicles make it increasingly easy for passengers and drivers to access hands-free communication tools, find-your-car services, and more, these smart car services [can](#) and [have](#) been used to stalk, harass, and intimidate survivors of intimate partner violence.

“No survivor of domestic violence and abuse should have to choose between giving up their car and allowing themselves to be stalked and harmed by those who can access its data and connectivity,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “We must do everything we can to help survivors stay safe. We need to work with auto and wireless industry leaders to find solutions.”

The Chairwoman sent [letters](#) to nine of the largest automakers serving the American marketplace. These letters ask the companies for details about the connected car systems they offer, any existing plans to support survivors in their efforts to disconnect from abusers, and how these companies handle consumers’ geolocation data.

In addition, the Chairwoman sent [letters](#) to wireless voice service providers AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon. These letters similarly ask about existing connected car services, treatment of geolocation data from these services, current compliance with the Safe Connections Act of 2022, and how/if the companies provide connected car services to consumers who are not subscribers to their wireless services otherwise.

The FCC under Chairwoman Rosenworcel has taken action to help domestic violence survivors access safe and affordable connectivity. The Commission recently adopted [new rules](#), which implement the Commission’s obligations under the Safe Connections Act, to help survivors separate service lines from accounts that include their abusers, protect the privacy of calls made by survivors to domestic abuse hotlines, and support survivors who suffer from financial hardship.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline [reports](#) that one in four women in this country and one in seven men is a survivor of severe domestic violence in their lifetime. An average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a single year. Almost half of all women and men in the US have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime (48.4% and 48.8%, respectively).

***Survivors can reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 799-7233, text START to 88788, or [chat](#) online.***

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**Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)**

*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).*