



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the threat of domestic abusers exploiting connectivity tools in vehicles to stalk and harass their partners. I agree with you that we can—and should—do more to make sure the conveniences of modern communications in the newest generation of cars help keep survivors of domestic abuse safe, and I appreciate your interest in exploring ways to achieve this, including through legislative action.

Since Congress passed the Safe Connections Act in November 2022, the Federal Communications Commission has taken action to ensure that survivors can separate from abusers without losing independent access to vital resources. In the agency's first effort to implement the statute in November 2023, the Commission adopted a Report and Order to help survivors of domestic violence and related crimes to separate service lines from accounts shared with their abusers, protect the privacy of calls made by survivors to domestic violence hotlines, and support survivors suffering from financial hardship. But upon learning of reports about how connected cars are being weaponized by abusers to stalk and harass survivors, I called on auto manufacturers and wireless service providers to seek their help in protecting domestic abuse survivors from the misuse of connected car tools by abusers. Building on that initiative, last month the Commission launched a formal proceeding to examine how we can best help stop abusers from using these tools to harass and intimidate their partners. We ask what more the Commission can do, and what more industry can do, to make sure that survivors feel safe, secure, and free from harm when they use the connected features in their cars. I look forward to seeing the record develop in that proceeding.

I welcome your support in developing a comprehensive understanding of and solutions to the misuse of connected vehicle technologies. Just as having a phone is a lifeline, access to a car is also a lifeline, and both serve as a means of escape and independence. 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 connectivity and data.

I greatly appreciate your interest and support in this matter and look forward to working with you on these issues. Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Rosenworcel