STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR


Americans are fed up with robocalls. And they want to see action that eliminates these unwanted intrusions—calls that interrupt our days, disturb our down times, and disrupt family dinners. So I am glad the FCC has elevated robocalls to our top enforcement priority and already taken significant steps to combat unlawful calls. We imposed major fines on parties engaged in large-scale spoofing operations. We adopted new rules that allow phone companies to block fraudulent calls. We worked with carriers to establish a call authentication framework that can ensure the validity of caller ID information. And in December, we created a database that lets businesses identify reassigned numbers.

But as long as unwanted calls continue, so does our work.

In many cases, robocallers trick people into picking up the phone by spoofing—falsifying caller ID information to replicate a familiar number. This type of caller ID scam has not escaped scrutiny. In fact, Congress recently broadened the reach of the Truth in Caller ID Act to cover calls that originate overseas, and it expanded the Act’s scope to include text messages. With today’s Notice, we propose to implement these statutory amendments. Doing so will help us take additional actions to address unwanted calls.

So I look forward to the FCC moving to an order quickly and continuing our efforts to combat these calls. I would like to thank to the staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau for your work on this item. It has my support.