STATEMENT OF
CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL


The bad actors behind robocalls are relentless. To stop them, we need to be just as tenacious. That is why today we kick off a rulemaking to make the Robocall Mitigation Database more accurate, effective, and secure.

In the three years since its launch, the Robocall Mitigation Database has become an important tool that helps the Federal Communications Commission and our law enforcement partners keep tabs on carriers and what they are doing to stop junk robocalls. But there is room for improvement. So here we seek comment on ways to make sure filings in the database are up-to-date and authenticated. We also ask about penalties for false and inaccurate information.

This is not the only update we are working on to keep this junk off the line. Just last week, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network so we can get access to Bank Secrecy Act information to track the different business entities that are set up to flood us with unwanted calls and texts. When coupled with the work of the Industry Traceback Group and the 49 State Attorneys General partnering with us, I think we can make real progress stopping the scammers behind these schemes. But to get the job done, we will need Congress to fix the gaping loophole left by the Supreme Court in its decision narrowing the definition of autodialer and reducing consumer protection under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. We also need to make sure that when this agency issues big fines for illegal robocalls we can take the bad actors responsible to court and not just rely on our colleagues at the Department of Justice to do so.

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