



October 4, 2017

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

Today, we participated in a hearing held by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging on robocalls and scams on seniors. Senator Casey is the Ranking Member of the Committee, and Attorney General Shapiro is the chief law enforcement officer of Pennsylvania and was an invited witness. We discussed efforts at the Federal, State, and local level that would help to prevent older Americans from falling victim to fraud or scams and committed to redouble our efforts to prevent as many scammers from preying upon our loved ones as possible. To that end, we write to urge you to immediately finalize and implement the rules proposed in the Matter of Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls (CG Docket No. 17-59).

It has been nearly eight months since you first proposed a rule that would make it harder for scammers to spoof certain telephone numbers to trick people into answering their phones and creating opportunities for fraud and scams. In this time period, it is likely that over 19 billion calls have been placed using robocalling technology, based on data you have cited in official documents. As Consumer Reports noted a few years ago, if robocalls were a disease, they would be an epidemic. Worse yet, many of these calls will contribute to the estimated \$3 billion bilked from our nation's seniors each year through fraud and scams.

We know that certain types of scams appear to target seniors specifically or may have a disproportionate impact on them, including but not limited to, technical support services scams, charitable donation scams, and sweepstakes scams. We have a sacred responsibility to the generations who came before us, and should be doing everything within our power as quickly as possible to ensure that older Americans do not lose one more penny to thieves pretending to be the IRS or a grandchild in need of rescue. Making it harder for these con artists to appear as though they are calling from a government agency or legitimate business, as your proposed rule would do, will go a long way. If an unknown number appears on a caller ID, it is less likely that a loved one will answer the phone and engage in a conversation that results in their hard-earned savings winding up in the hands of criminals.

Every day that you delay the implementation of the proposed rule, more seniors fall victim to a fraud or scam. It is time that you take action on this rule to help protect friends and loved ones. We look forward to receiving an update from you as to when this rule will become final.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert P. Casey, Jr. in blue ink.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Josh Shapiro in blue ink.

Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General