



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS,  
UTILITIES, AND ENERGY**  
STATE HOUSE ROOM 473-B  
BOSTON 02133-1053

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mailroom

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.  
House Chairman

Frank A. Moran  
House Vice Chairman

November 1, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls (CG Docket No. 17-59)

Ms. Dortch:

As state legislators and members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, we write to you today to encourage the FCC to adopt new rules to combat the pervasive issue of unlawful robocalls that affect our residents each and every day.

We have received complaints from our constituents and residents across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who are inundated with fraudulent telephone calls.

Our offices are not alone in hearing such complaints. In a recent Boston Globe article, Attorney General Maura Healey asserted that robocalls are the most frequently reported issue her office's consumer assistance hotline receives and that Massachusetts residents lodge approximately 11,000 related complaints every month with the federal government.

These calls harass residents of our great state at all times of the day. However, those responsible for these calls often have a more sinister motive than disturbing daily life. The purpose of a significant number of these calls is to steal money or sensitive information from the recipient, and the victims are often members of vulnerable populations.

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Our message is clear: action must be taken to stop unlawful robocalls, which are at best a temporary annoyance and at worst part of a life-altering scam. We applaud the FCC's 2017 Call Blocking Order, but believe that more can be done to achieve its stated goals. Therefore, we support the following measures, which constitute a small but significant portion of the response needed to curb these illegal acts.


- **Maintain existing rules on which types of calls can be blocked by providers and consider expanding them to include other types of calls that are likely to be illegal**
- **Encourage service providers to implement the STIR and SHAKEN protocols, which utilize contemporary cryptographic techniques to verify a caller's identity**
- **Require phone companies to implement caller ID authentication technology and offer call-blocking tools to all customers at no cost**

We thank you for your consideration of our comments and are available at your request to further discuss this significant issue.

Sincerely,




**THOMAS A. GOLDEN, JR.**  
*State Representative*  
*16<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District*




**FRANK A. MORAN**  
*State Representative*  
*17<sup>th</sup> Essex District*




**DANIEL CAHILL**  
*State Representative*  
*10<sup>th</sup> Essex District*



**JOSH S. CUTLER**  
*State Representative*  
*6<sup>th</sup> Plymouth District*



**CAROLYN C. DYKEMA**  
*State Representative*  
*8<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District*

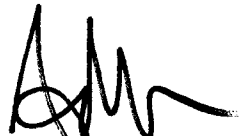


**JAMES K. HAWKINS**  
*State Representative*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Bristol District*



**RANDY HUNT**

*State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> Barnstable District*



**ADRIAN MADARO**

*State Representative  
1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk District*



**JOAN MESCHINO**

*State Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> Plymouth District*



**LEONARD MIRRA**

*State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Essex District*