

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 3, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Pai:

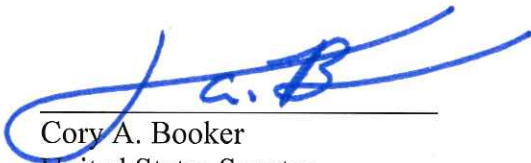
We write to express our support for a petition filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in July 2016 by a group of healthcare industry companies. These companies seek a clarification of the FCC's 2015 interpretation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") related to the treatment of health care-related outreach to consumers.

These companies asked the FCC to harmonize its interpretation of TCPA with the consumer protection provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") to ensure that both laws are interpreted to treat consumer telephone numbers the same way. As part of their services to consumers these companies provide important medical and treatment information to patients using text messaging and customized automated telephone calls, and we understand that these types of communications have been shown to improve patient outcomes. Without the ability to make these calls, there is a risk that patients', members', and beneficiaries' health outcomes and overall well-being could be adversely impacted.

We share the goal of reducing unwarranted and harassing phone calls. But we believe that the TCPA was not intended to limit the health care-improving communications that these companies provide, especially in light of the fact that HIPAA expressly encourages and permits such calls to be made.

Time is of the essence to ensure that consumer's access to health care information is not jeopardized. We encourage the FCC to resolve these issues as soon as possible (preferably within the next 90 days) and to protect communications allowed under HIPAA in light of their unique value to consumers and their positive impact on American's health and well-being.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator