

I get as many as 10 telemarketing phone calls a day. I have caller ID on my phone but it is located on the opposite side of the house from my room. Even looking at the caller ID does almost no good because many times the display says the number is unavailable, anonymous, or there is a name and number I do not recognize. Unfortunately, simply not taking calls labeled as "unavailable" is not a good option. I have had important calls from people and organizations that I expected to hear from that also display "unavailable."

I receive many phone calls from telemarketers that are obviously dialed by a computer. Sometimes the computer calls and there is no sound at all, even if I wait. The same telemarketers have called over and over, and no one is there when I answer.

I can not count how many times that I have been woken up in the morning from telemarketer calls. I used to get calls between 8:00 and 9:00 am almost every morning. I have been forced to ignore the phone because of the effort involved in answering so many meaningless and unwanted calls. The answering machine has become as important as the phone itself. The telemarketers even leave recorded messages on my answering machine, which I have to listen to before I can erase it.

This situation really makes me mad. I feel that my personal freedom has been taken away. I think that it is equal to harassment. Why should I be responsible for telling each caller that I want to be taken off their list? Why is it that I have to ask them? Why are they the ones in control? I never asked them to call me in the first place. I think that it is sad the government has not stepped in. There is so much talk about spam e-mail. That is a problem. However, in that case I am not forced to stop what I am doing and physically go to the phone. The current situation demands action from the government to protect private citizens.